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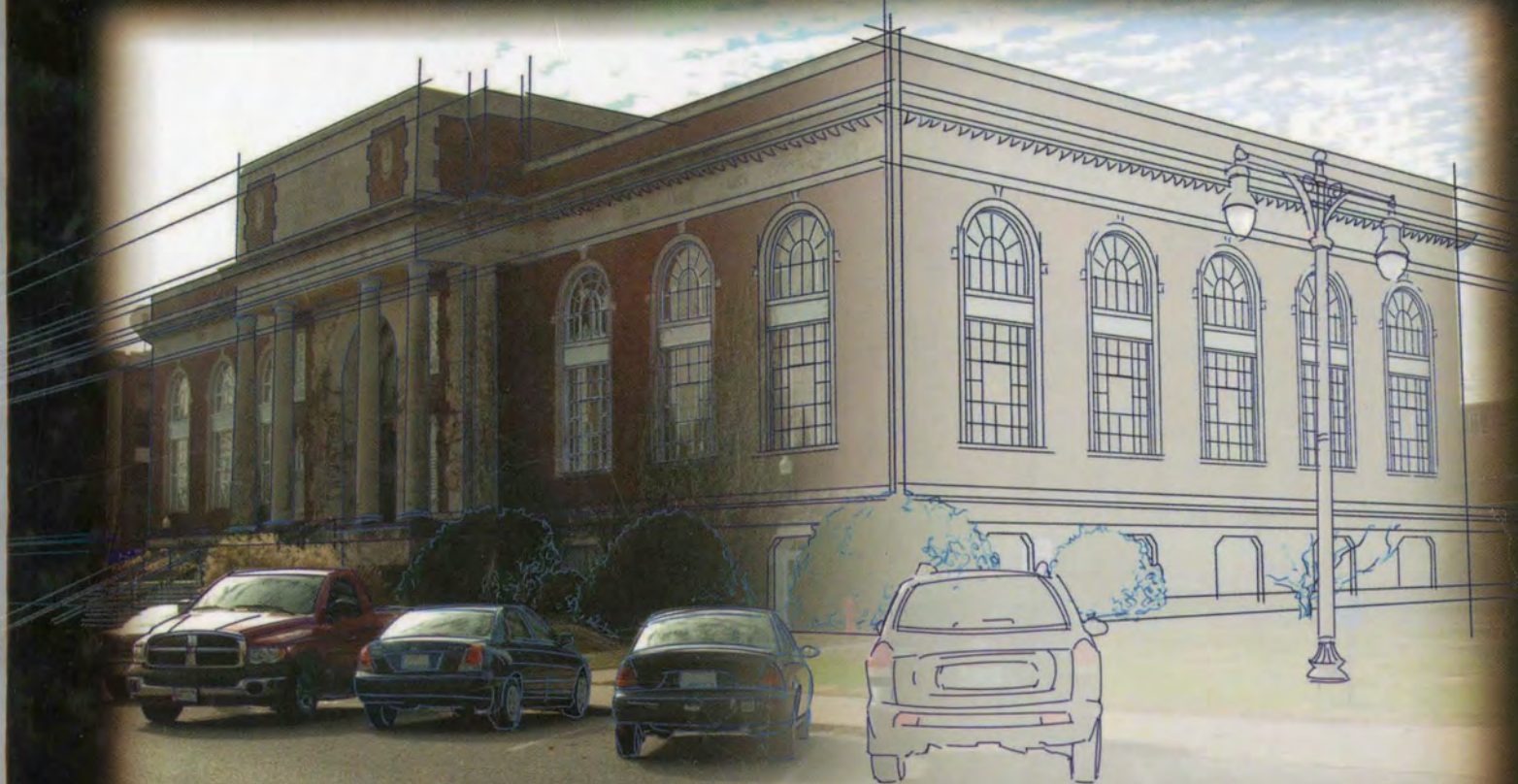
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perspectives

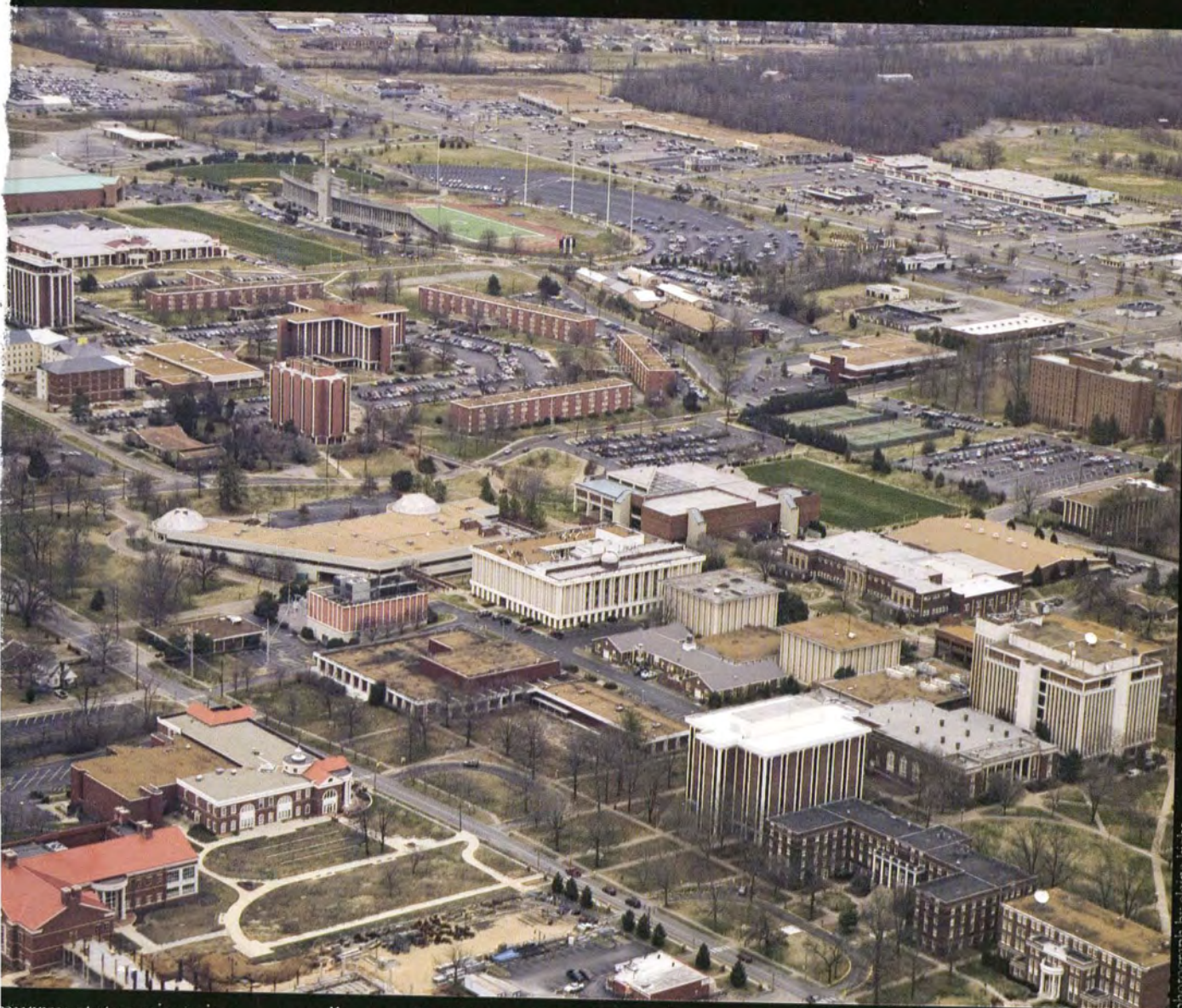


[2007 shield]

perspective *n.* (pər-spěk'tiv)

1.
 - a. A mental view or outlook
 - b. The relationship of aspects of a subject to each other and to a whole
 - c. Subjective evaluation of relative significance; a point of view**
 - d. The ability to perceive things in their actual interrelations or comparative importance
2. The appearance of objects in depth as perceived by normal binocular vision
3. The technique of representing three-dimensional object and depth relationships on a two-dimensional surface

perspectives



photograph by elaine knight

murray state university - enrollment: 10,304 - 114 wilson hall - murray, ky 42071

[shield]
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photographs by kaia fox and elaine kight

[perspectives]





photographs by kaia fox and elaine kight

In 2006-2007, Murray State University had 10,304 students enrolled, with 84 percent of those being undergraduates. Minority students made up 8 percent of the population and six in 10 students were women. There were 336 international students from 52 foreign countries on campus. Three in four students attended the University full-time. Thirty-two percent of students were older than 24 years. There were 99 professors, 114 associate professors, 92 assistant professors, 2 instructors and 89 lecturers making up Murray State's faculty. Females comprised 39 percent of full-time instructional faculty. There were 976 staff members.

information courtesy of murray state university fact book

mr. msu
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homecoming
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roxann downey profile
concerts on campus
spring graduation



photograph by elaine kight

Jenni Ballew, a senior from Fulton, and Jenny Hunter, a senior from Farmington, take advantage of a warm April day to study in the Quad. Ballew also brought her pet ducklings along to enjoy the spring weather.

[campus life]

[new york mr. msu entertains during night filled with excitement and twists new york]

story by gindy blalock

photographs by caitlin dumagan

Excitement and entertainment filled what would be an unforgettable night at Lovett Auditorium, where the 26th annual Mr. MSU took place. The event was organized and produced by Alpha Omicron Pi to raise money for its national philanthropy, arthritis research.

"AOPi is proud of the tradition Mr. MSU has created on campus," said Kristin Watson, a junior from Dover, Tenn., and Philanthropic Chair for AOPi. "Our 26th annual show was a philanthropic success, and enabled us to donate over \$6,000 to the Arthritis Foundation. It took a lot of hard work and dedication from many people to make this so successful, along with the audience who was very enthusiastic and generous with their donations."

The theme for the 2006 Mr. MSU was "New York, New York," with 21 talented men taking to the stage "dancing in the streets." The show started off with the opening dance number, which was followed by formal wear, but it was during the talent portion of the competition that Mother Nature added its own twist to the evening. Immediately after the fourth contestant, Eric King, a junior from Calhoun, left the stage, tornado sirens on campus went off. The audience had to make its way onto the stage to get away from the large glass windows in the auditorium. After waiting through a 30-minute warning, the crowd members were able to return to their seats and the show continued, with the remaining contestants performing their talents.

"Although our trip to 'New York, New York,' was interrupted by a tornado warning, everyone had a fantastic time and we were entertained by the contestants' many talents," Watson said.

The talent section of the show was always enjoyable because some contestants took that time to show off some unique talents. This year was no different. Talents ranging from

dancing and painting to trombone playing were showcased. The Crowd Appeal Award, which was chosen by the audience, went to Clayton Clark, a senior from Belleville, Ill., who was also awarded first runner up. For his talent, he performed "The Evolution of Dance," which was a combination of popular dances from the past.

"Winning Crowd Appeal was a tremendous honor," Clark said. "Knowing that the crowd picked me as their favorite is a great feeling. I worked very hard to master my talent and it seems like all of that hard work paid off. The whole pageant was a great experience for me."

Wes Smith, a senior from Smithland, was crowned Mr. MSU 2006. For his talent, he performed the song "Melt" by Rascal Flatts to his fiancée Meagan McManus, a senior AOPi member from Symsonia. Also placing in the competition were second runner up King; third runner up Ronnie Walls, a junior from Marion, Ill., and fourth runner up Paul Mills, a senior from Louisville.

"Being a part of Mr. MSU was an honor," Smith said. "I didn't really know what to expect when I entered into it, but it proved to be a blast. Having my beautiful fiancée on stage with me also helped to calm my nerves. I just pretended to sing to her like I do at home and everything just flowed from there. What can I say? She stole the show being on stage with me. I do count it a blessing to be honored with such a title as Mr. MSU. I will never forget the competition or the friendship of those guys and the AOPi's during that week."

Immediately after being crowned Mr. MSU, Smith was surrounded by the sisters of AOPi. With their right arms raised in the air, they congratulated him with their cheer.

Wes Smith, winner of the Mr. MSU competition, sings "Melt" to his fiancée Meagan McManus and Virginia Taylor, a senior from Jackson, Tenn. Smith proposed to McManus a few days prior to the event.





Members of Alpha Omicron Pi run onto the stage of Lovett Auditorium to chant their congratulatory cheer for the new Mr. MSU, Wes Smith. Even though tornado sirens sounded through the night, "New York, New York" proved to be a successful event for the sorority.

campus lights

students showcase acting abilities in annual theatrical production

story by stephanie harrington
photographs by caitlin dunnagan

In 1938, the Gamma Delta chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia began the tradition of Campus Lights. This year, the tradition was kept bright with its 70th annual production, *Fame: The Musical*.

The student-run Campus Lights production was originally used to pay for Phi Mu Alpha's charter, but its members decided to make the show an annual production. Now, the proceeds are put toward a scholarship awarded every four years to an incoming freshman focusing on music or theater.

During World War II, the ladies of the Iota Beta chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota took over the show production while the men were at war, temporarily naming it *Campus Dim-out*. After the war, Campus Lights returned to its original name, with Phi Mu Alpha and Sigma Alpha Iota as co-sponsors.

A story of adolescence, struggles and rewards set in the 1980s, *Fame* was originally a television show, but went to the big screen and is now kept alive on stage. It made its first theatrical debut in Miami, Fla., in 1988, and then broke box office records in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1989. It debuted in London's West End in 1995 and was nominated for two Laurence Olivier Awards. The show has traveled all across the UK and London and premiered on campus in Lovett Auditorium for students and the community on January 25.

Stephen Keene, a Phi Mu Alpha faculty adviser who served as director of the production, grew up in the 1980s and said many of the issues presented in *Fame* are still relevant today.

"Artists constantly struggle—even I, a singer with very strong emotion and passion, have dealt with rejection, disappointment and heartache," he said. The play opened with the song *Hard Work*, which set the tone for the entire length of the musical.

The cast, which is not limited to members of Phi Mu Alpha or Sigma Alpha Iota, enthralled themselves in a story based at the School for Performing Arts in New York during its last year before merging with the LaGuardia School of Music and Performing Arts.

The show consisted of several mini-stories instead of the traditional two leading roles.

Meg Black, a junior from Murray, played Iris, a classically trained ballet dancer. Opposite her,

Lorenzo Goodman, a junior from Metropolis, Ill., played Tyrone, who was a black, street-wise break dancer, trapped in ballet. Iris and Tyrone sparked an unexpected romance.

Nicole Casteel, a senior from Evansville, Ind., played Carmen Diaz, a spicy Latina singer with dreams of making it big, but she had a drug problem. Payton Pennington, a junior from Hopkinsville, played Schlomo, a pianist who worked closely with Carmen and who fell in love with her and played their song at graduation, which was also the one month anniversary of Carmen's death from a drug overdose.

Samantha Walters, a junior from Paducah, and Chris Kent, a senior from Marion, Ill., played opposite each other as Serena and Nick. Serena was Nick's lovesick partner, who, thanks to practicing Romeo and Juliet for class, finally won Nick's affection.

There was plenty of comedy in the musical, mostly provided by Mabel (Amanda McGuire, a senior from Benton), an overweight singer and dancer on what she called "the See-Food Diet: I see it, I eat it!" Jose Vegas (Adam Denison, a junior from Hopkinsville), a Hispanic actor who was unafraid to express his sexual drive, also provided a comedic performance for the audience.

The cast and crew began work in early January, returning to campus before it reopened for classes. Set crew, costume crew, cast and the pit orchestra all began rehearsals 23 days before the first performance, and the cooperation of all came together beautifully for the show. Keene was especially impressed with how the show came together, and felt he had a recipe for success.

"I see *Fame: The Musical* as a big change for Campus Lights; not just in the production itself, but in the way future production staffs will look at organizing and scheduling," he said. "I shared my vision as a director and the actors did not hesitate to breathe that vision into the characters in the show. I take pride in my work as a director, but I am also very thankful to a production staff that went above and beyond the call of duty and I hope they are aware that it would not have been as successful if they had not stepped up to the challenge."

During a lesson in acting class, Jose Vegas (Adam Denison) shares his ambitions with the group. Vegas' acting coach implored him to channel his emotions into his acting, which often provided the audience with comic relief.



Iris (Meg Black) and Tyrone (Lorenzo Goodman) kiss in the school's dance studio during the second act. The two *Fame* characters sparked an unexpected romance while attending the School for Performing Arts in New York.



tying the knot

couples commemorate courtship with shoe tree tradition

story by elaine kight

Murray State alumni Kyser and Amanda (Birkner) Lough tied the knot June 24, 2006.

On Oct. 1, the couple tied another knot—this one, a sturdy double knot between two well-worn shoes. They nailed the shoes, one Kyser's and one Amanda's, to the famous shoe tree on campus as a symbol of their relationship that began at Murray State.

The gnarled tree stands adjacent to the Rainey T. Wells statue in the Quad and features dozens of shoes belonging to students who have found their soul mates during their college years. Tradition says that if two people meet at Murray State and get married, they return and affix one of each of their shoes to the tree.

Amanda said she admired the tradition of the shoe tree as a student. She learned about the tree soon after arriving at Murray and walked by it almost daily. "I always thought it'd be neat to find my soul mate at school," Amanda said.

Amanda and Kyser agreed that being involved on campus helped bring them together. Both lived on campus and were members of Hester's Residential College Council, but they mark the beginning of their friendship during spring finals of 2003. "We didn't study at all that week," Kyser said.

A round of inclement weather that week sent the Hester residents to the stairwell, but Kyser, who "typically ignored such warnings" was headed outside to admire the storm and ran into Amanda, who wanted to join in the fun. That night, Kyser said he sneakily put his phone number in Amanda's phone and called himself so he'd have her number.

They stayed in contact because they were involved in many of the same activities. Kyser worked for *The Murray State News* and Amanda worked for the *Shield*, so they admittedly battled over which was more important. After Kyser gave in and joined the yearbook staff, their relationship grew.

The two officially got together the night before Homecoming in the fall of 2003. They dated for the rest of their time on campus and were

engaged over a sunrise breakfast on the roof of Hester in the fall of 2005.

They later returned to campus to commemorate their courtship and marriage by nailing their shoes to the tree. Upon arriving in the Quad, they searched for the perfect spot for their footwear among the other weathered shoes, some of which had fallen to the ground. They worked together to tie the laces of Amanda's well-loved running shoes to Kyser's worn-out sneakers. Their names and the dates of their marriage decorated each shoe, which Kyser affixed to the tree with a hammer and nails.

Among those shoes already on the tree were a mismatched pair belonging to Samuel and Sara Jane (Ginn) Arnett. On a day in December 2005 when Samuel said it was "snowing like crazy," the couple nailed their shoes to the tree.

The two were acquaintances as undergraduates, but when they met again in Nashville, Tenn., it took three days and three dates for the couple to decide they were meant for each other. They were married Aug. 27, 2005, and returned later to nail their shoes to the tree. "Mine was a combat boot, and she donated a favorite flat to the cause," Samuel said.

Sara said she had always admired the shoe tree as a student, but as graduation neared, she feared that she would not get to be part of the tradition because of her other priorities. "It's funny how life comes full circle sometimes," she said. "Sam and I are both so proud to have a part of us hanging around, now finally together, in Murray on the shoe tree."

Since graduating, life has taken the Arnetts all across the globe. Sam taught at a Catholic mission in Jamaica, then worked as a meat packer in Alaska. While writing and singing country songs in Nashville, he met Sara. The couple moved to Germany after Sam joined the U.S. Army. Sam is now deployed to Kuwait, and the couple is expecting their first child in March 2007.

For Samuel, the tree symbolized the many unions formed on campus. "It gives every passerby that ray of hope that special someone is out there for them," he said. "It is a symbol of love."

"I always thought it'd be neat to find my soul mate at school..."

Braving the cold weather, alumni Sam and Sara Arnett nail their shoes on the shoe tree. The Arnetts were married on Aug. 27, 2005. (Photo courtesy of Alumni Association)





Alumni Kyser and Amanda Lough nail their shoes to the shoe tree this fall. The couple met while living in Hester Residential College and were married June 24, 2006. (Photo by Elaine

[new faces]

students and alumni enjoy homecoming activities

[same racer spirit]

story by cindy blalock
photographs by kaia fox

Members of Alpha Gamma Rho and Alpha Gamma Delta display their float during the Homecoming parade. The two groups built a replica of a tank for their float to carry out an army theme.



For many students and alumni, the fall season was comprised of leaves changing colors, football games and Homecoming weekend. Without any one of these things, the season would not have felt complete.

For alumni, this was a time in which they could reunite with college friends, see the campus and its changes and have a relaxing weekend. Students, on the other hand, often did the opposite of relaxing since they were helping to entertain and organize festivities for the event.

"I believe Homecoming is a special time on campus," Jayme Kahne, a sophomore from Paducah, said. "It is a time for our community to come together and support our institution, while celebrating what it has done for us."

With the theme *New Faces, Same Racer Spirit*, which fit the atmosphere perfectly, the excitement began with the annual bonfire. Located near the residential colleges, the bonfire gave students and alumni a chance to gather and get pumped up about the upcoming events. A variety of people attended to celebrate and cheer, including the cheerleaders and king and queen candidates.

"The bonfire was a lot of fun and offered a different and unique opportunity for students to interact and unite," Reed Clapp, a sophomore from Fancy Farm, said.

October 14 kicked off with the annual Homecoming parade. Every year, children, alumni, citizens of Murray and students line Main Street to see all of the floats and the Grand Marshall. Kirk Reuter, former pitcher for the San Francisco Giants, led the parade. He began his

baseball career playing for the 'Breds from 1988-1991, where he received many honors including OVC Player of the Year. In the summer of 1991, he was drafted by the Montreal Expos. Reuter was chosen as Grand Marshall because of his success in major league baseball. Retiring this past year from the San Francisco Giants, Reuter had been in the MLB for 13 years. He was one of the most successful pitchers in the club's history.

Many university organizations and clubs had floats in the parade that they tried to tie in to the Homecoming theme. Alpha Omicron Pi and Sigma Phi Epsilon paired up to create a float using the *Shield* as their focus, showing representations of kings and queens from 50 years ago and present day. Also in the parade were the band, Mr. and Miss MSU, and king and queen candidates, who paired up and rode in convertibles.

In charge of organizing the parade was Robyn Ryan, a sophomore from Murray, who served as Homecoming chair for the Student Government Association. Preparations began several months in advance when invitations to be in the parade were sent out.

"I never in a million years would have thought that so much went into a parade, but boy was I wrong," Ryan said. "The parade went really well, and after it was over I was very relieved because everything turned out great, and it made all of the hard work worthwhile. I wanted this parade to be a memorable one for the alumni, and I think it was just that since it was the largest parade yet."

[continued on page 18]

Members of Alpha Omicron Pi and Sigma Phi Epsilon parade down Main Street during Homecoming. The sorority and fraternity members dressed up as kings and queens from 1956 and 2006 as they stood in front of a replica of the *Shield*.





Kelli Fitzpatrick, a senior from Caseyville, Ill.; Reed Clapp, a sophomore from Fancy Farm; Elizabeth Cawein, a senior from Bartlett, Tenn.; Jason Hinson, a senior from Cumberland City, Tenn.; Davis Perkins; Meaghan King, a senior from Murray; Clayton Clark, a senior from Belleville, Ill.; Whitney Overstreet, a junior from Paducah; and Paul Mills, a graduate student from Louisville, were all members of the Homecoming court. Elections for Homecoming king and queen were held for the entire campus the week prior to the event.

[continued from page 17]

Davis and Perkins give a thumbs up to the crowd after being crowned. Both were nominated by Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.



Following the parade was Tent City, held inside the stadium for the first time ever because of the large crowd it brought. Every year, Tent City gives alumni and students the chance to socialize. Since many organizations, residential colleges and academic departments on campus had tents set up, alumni could visit with specific organizations or groups they associated with when they were students.

"This was my first Homecoming as an alumna of my sorority, Alpha Omicron Pi, and I feel like it gave me an opportunity to get to know the sorority's new members in a fun and casual setting," Jenny Canaday, a graduate student from Nashville, Tenn., said.

To end Tent City and encourage the crowd to make its way to the stadium, the band performed as they made their way around the track inside the stadium. With a crowd of 5,800 taking their seats in the stands, festivities continued with the crowning of king and queen. These honors went to Joel Perkins, a senior from Chatham, Ill., and Brittany Davis, a senior from Hopkinsville. Both were nominated by Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

"I was in sheer disbelief when they announced my name," Davis said. "It was also an added highlight to have my escort, Joel Perkins, announced as king."

With the crowd in place and festivities coming to an end, the last event on campus began to take place, which was the annual Homecoming football game. The Racers faced Samford, who took the win over Murray with a score of 33 to 7. Even with the Racers losing the game, the crowd kept its spirits high and enjoyed the atmosphere.

"Homecoming this year was a highlight of my life that I will never forget," Perkins said. "It was such an honor and surprise just to have the opportunity to be on the court and then to be crowned king was incredible. Homecoming has always been an event that means a lot to me, and for my last year as an undergraduate, I couldn't have asked for a better, more perfect Homecoming. Murray State has given me so much over the past four years, and I am so blessed and thankful to be a part of it all."

Grand Marshall Kirk Reuter and President Randy Dunn pose with Brittany Davis and Joel Perkins, the newly crowned Homecoming queen and king. Reuter, a Murray State alumnus, was a former pitcher for the San Francisco Giants.



[home away from home]

coffee shops provide a place to relax and unwind

story by rachel ruehling
photographs by caitlin dunnagan

Long hours in class, endless nights of homework, trying to find time to hang out with friends and wanting to just sit back and relax made the coffee shops around campus seem like a safe haven. Most students felt the need to unwind with a hot drink in their hand and chat with friends they hadn't seen during the week while forgetting homework for a few hours. There were a number of places to eat around campus, but late at night many students could be found sitting on the big, comfortable coffee shop couches laughing and talking with friends, telling numerous jokes and stories from the day. In the mornings, students were ready to greet the day after having some of their favorite coffee to get them going.

Kimberly Strange, a sophomore from Elizabethtown, was one of the students who could be found in Hart College's Thoroughbred Café almost any night of the week. "The coffee shop is a place that I can go to and hang out with my friends and feel comfortable," Strange said. "I am able to relax and not worry about bothering anyone. I love it when the student workers recognize me when I come in."

Caffeine was also in high demand for college students. Being able to stay awake in math class after drinking a creamy latte made any student feel better.

The coffee shops on campus employed students who were paid hourly. Being able to go to school and work on campus made the transition from school to work much easier. Scott Duckworth, a senior from Henderson, said, "I

enjoy working at Hart's Thoroughbred Café because it's relaxing, I am able to hang out with friends, talk to different people and get a free cup of coffee."

There were two coffee shops on campus: one in Hart Residential College and one in Regents Residential College. Students could find an assortment of drinks and pastries for a late-night snack or an on-the-go breakfast before early morning classes.

Getting different kicks of caffeine off campus was simple, too. Coffee shops such as Fidalgo Bay and The Frap House were both within walking distance, which made them favorite hangouts for students. At any of the local coffee shops there were an assortment of people hanging out with friends, working on homework, playing their guitars or having their own personal time.

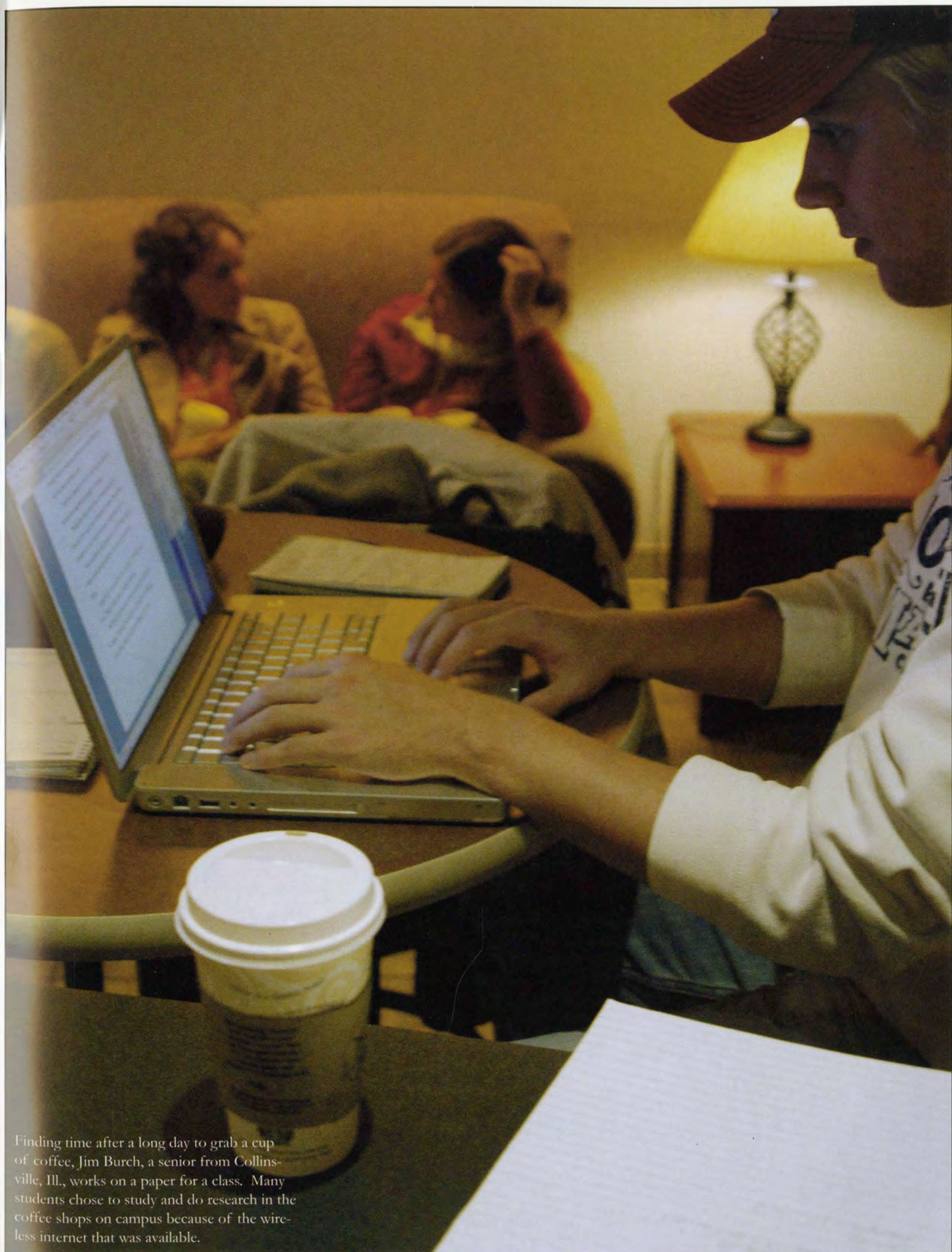
"Finding time to hang out with my friends after a long day helps me to unwind," said Austin Harris, a sophomore from Dalton. "I'm busy all day with homework and no time for friends, so the time I get to hang out in Hart's coffee shop is really nice."

When the clock hit 11 p.m. on the weekdays in Hart's Thoroughbred Café, the song "Closing Time" by Semisonic would be played to signal customers to leave so the student staff could clean the store.

Until the next morning when the bustle of students would come in for their early morning pick-me-up, that hot spot was shut down for the night and caffeine addicts were left waiting for the morning.

Thoroughbred Café employee Megan Crady, a junior from Louisville, brews a cup of coffee for another student. Coffee shops on campus gave employees the opportunity to work in a fun and relaxing environment.





Finding time after a long day to grab a cup of coffee, Jim Burch, a senior from Collinsville, Ill., works on a paper for a class. Many students chose to study and do research in the coffee shops on campus because of the wireless internet that was available.

[AΔΠ presents]

students rock out at annual charity music competition

[battle of the bands]

story by leah wood
photographs by kaia fox

AΔΠ member Julie Musko presents a member of *Derivative* a plaque for the band's performance. *Derivative* was named runner-up in the competition.



The sounds of classic and modern rock rang throughout Lovett Auditorium Saturday, Oct. 29 as Alpha Delta Pi hosted its second annual philanthropic "Battle of the Bands" competition. The sorority raised money through ticket sales, band entrance fees, t-shirt sales and a penny wars contest to send to the Ronald McDonald house in Albuquerque, N.M. Last year the event raised enough money to support a family of five at the non-profit home for a month.

Defending champions *Transparent* returned with a new name and a new face. *The Bloom*, a local contemporary rock band, featured Whitney Bush, a junior from Winchester, on guitar and vocals as the only female band member in the entire competition. Emcee Ryan Smithson, a sophomore from Hopkinsville, said, "The Bloom was definitely my favorite. Go Whitney Bush!!"

Winners of the competition, *Bordertown*, represented the country roots of Murray as they opened the show with an electric, country-inspired style and sound. The members of AΔΠ were invited on stage for a song to dance and sing alongside the band members. "The band was great and really tried to get the crowd involved in their music," said Julie Musko, a junior from Marion, Ill., who helped coordinate the competition. Musko said she "loved how they treated the

AΔΠ's like they were rock stars!"

Runner-up *Derivative* also invited the sorority and other audience members to get involved with their modern rock sound. Sorority members formed an "AΔΠ Pit" instead of the popular rock

"They treated the AΔΠ's like they were rock stars!"

concert "mosh pit" because, as the lead vocalist suggested, "if you jump up and down too much you might fall into the orchestra pit under the stage!"

The band played a 15-minute music set to finish up the show.

Erica Richie, a senior from Mascoutah, Ill., coordinated the event and said, "I feel like the show was a success because it ran very smoothly and the bands were really great."

One of Richie's more difficult responsibilities for the competition was finding legitimate and willing judges to critique the bands. Todd Hill, professor and director of jazz ensembles, helped judge. Hill has played with a number of performers, such as Frank Sinatra Jr., *The Platters* and *The Moody Blues*. Matt Hinz, a 2002 Murray State graduate, and Jennifer Gourley Hunter, a 2003 AΔΠ alumni, also served as judges.

The Stone Jokers and *The London Eyes* also competed in the show. All five bands were thanked for their participation in the event. Plans for the next "Battle of the Bands" were already underway at the close of the show.



Guitarist for *The Bloom* Whitney Bush tunes up her instrument as another band member speaks to the crowd. The band played a 15-minute set during the competition.

[in the students take the stage in murray idol competition spotlight]

story by amanda smith
photographs by caitlin dunnagan

Eight Murray State students got a chance to shine in Lovett Auditorium Oct. 3 as finalists from each residential college competed for the title of Murray State Idol.

The contest, inspired by Fox Network's "American Idol," took place in three rounds. Would-be competitors first vied for the title in their respective residential colleges during the weeks leading up to the campus-wide event. In some colleges, this was a fierce contest. "When they started posting flyers around White, I signed up as fast as I could," said Felicia Gammon, a freshman from Hawesville.

Gammon won the White Residential College competition and progressed to the semi-final round, a campus-wide contest that allowed each college one contestant. At this level, the performers were evaluated by a panel of judges on their stage presence, voice quality, flair and attitude, originality and overall performance. The student body was also invited to enjoy a free evening of entertainment.

Contestants enjoyed the support of an enthusiastic crowd of students, families and friends. "I think the best part of the competition for me was the crowd," Gammon said. "It was great to get to sing in front of a lot of people and have fun with it."

Hanson Hostetler, a sophomore from Evansville, Ind., was Clark Residential College's representative in the show. He also appreciated the audience's support, particularly that of his friends who designed and wore shirts that spelled out his name.

"It was a really awesome feeling to have all of those people screaming for me," Hostetler said.

The contestants' previous experiences with performing for an audience varied. Some, such as Kristin Wilford, a sophomore from Mayfield who represented Regents College, had a long history of singing for crowds. "My dad pastors a church, and when I was younger, I was always singing something in front of the congregation on Sunday mornings," she said. Wilford had also competed in several competitions, including the Kentucky State Fair, the Coca-Cola Competition in Louisville, church talent competitions and a televised contest at Opry Mills Mall in Nashville, Tenn.

Hostetler, at the other end of the spectrum, had no competition experience. He had, however, taken five years of voice lessons and performed regularly at Holiday World and Splashin' Safari, a theme park in Santa Claus, Ind. "It's there that I've really gained a lot of my singing and performance skills," he said.

Hostetler rated his experience at Murray Idol as a beneficial one as well. "We were all back there cheering every single person on and giving them pointers on what they could possibly do," he said.

At the end of the evening, the judges selected Jasmine Davis, a sophomore from Benton representing Elizabeth College, and Rebbie Edmonds, a sophomore from Hardinsburg representing Hart College, to progress to the final stage of the competition.

The two performed at Murray State's "Night of Stars" Nov. 6, where Davis was awarded the Murray State Idol title. Her prize was a \$500 scholarship and two hours of studio recording time.

Jasmine Davis performs "House of the Rising Sun" onstage in Lovett Auditorium. Davis was the second act of the evening and went on to win the Murray Idol title Nov. 6.





Entertaining the audience, Rebbie Edmonds sings her rendition of "Band of Gold." Edmonds took second place in the final round of the Murray Idol contest.

in another's eyes

art student sees campus from a unique view

story by cindy blalock
photograph by caitlin dunnagan

Every year you will walk past thousands of faces, some familiar, and some you will never see again. Are there people you have seen for just a couple of seconds, yet something about them forever sticks in your mind? One individual who may not be easily forgotten is student Casey Bradley.

A freshman from Fort Thomas, Bradley is studying art and creative writing. She chose to attend Murray State for several different reasons.

"Both of my parents attended MSU: my father, who majored in art, and my mother, who majored in music," Bradley said. "I'd also heard wonderful things about the art program, and needless to say, I was intrigued." She also chose Murray because it was the school farthest away from home, yet still in Kentucky. Like many college students, she wanted her independence and believed this was how she could get it.

For those who saw Bradley on campus, it may have been something she was wearing or doing that caught their eyes. One thing she was known for was her artistic use of eye makeup. Almost every day she spent a couple of minutes designing swirls, sometimes called butterflies, around her eyes with silver and black makeup.

"I originally got the idea years ago, back in the eighth grade," Bradley said. "I found a tube of glitter makeup that had swirly designs on the tubing. I used the makeup and made swirly designs around my eyes. Later, in my sophomore year of high school, I watched the movie *Ashoka*, which took place in India. One of the main characters of the movie occasionally had little designs out to the sides of her face and I was inspired. I started wearing the tiny designs on the side of my face."

Something else Bradley may have been seen wearing was her tail, which she clipped onto the back of her pants.

"I wear a tail because I'm still a kid at heart," Bradley said. "When I was a kid, I always thought it was unfair that my cat and dog had tails and I didn't. Wearing the tail is merely a sign of my childish nature, which I never wish to part with. I also feel it balances out the outfits I wear sometimes, in a strange way."

Overall, Bradley had her own personal style. She often wore bright colors or unique pieces of clothing such as leopard print leggings and bright beaded necklaces.

It was easy to see that drawing was a strong interest of Bradley's. She even had her own comic strip online that she had been creating for four years. She was very proud of her comic, and one day hoped to publish her own graphic novel. Other areas that also interested her were history, theater, music, soccer and ultimate frisbee. In addition to being a talented artist, she also sang.

Although she was only a freshman, she was already involved in several activities on campus. Some of these included Dance Dance Revolution and Society of Creative Anachronisms.

"Walking around campus, going to the movies at the Curris Center and hunting zombies in the Fine Arts Building are some of my favorite things to do on campus," Bradley said.

She also enjoyed living on campus and having late night chats with her roommate, who was a foreign exchange student from Korea. Bradley found it interesting and fun to compare how different their lives were.

Students such as Bradley proved why Murray State was such an interesting and fun place to learn. It had a diverse group of students, all with different interests and talents, and proved there is always something fun and different to do.



Displaying her unique sense of style, Casey Bradley poses in front of Pogue Library. Bradley didn't leave any detail unnoticed, even down to her rainbow-colored shoestrings.

[casey bradley]

fall

dr. dunn celebrates his first graduation ceremony at murray state

graduation

story by sarah hovekamp
photographs by jeff slinker

Graduation is the most important part of any schooling, and on Saturday, Dec. 16, more than 800 students proved that. Even though the ceremony did not begin until 10 a.m., graduates and their family and friends began arriving at the Regional Special Events Center as early as 8. Everyone, it seemed, was eager for commencement to start.

The ceremony began with a procession of the Board of Regents, college deans, residential college heads and graduates. After everyone was seated, new president Dr. Randy Dunn talked about the history and traditions of Murray State.

He mentioned graduating student Janessa Breck Morton, who was the fourth generation to graduate from Murray State University.

Dunn also said it was the 16th consecutive year Murray State had been ranked as one of the nation's best universities, according to *U.S. News and World Report*. He said the graduation rate not only exceeded the national average, but also the graduation rate of 85 percent of public universities in the United States.

"Nationally, only one in four people obtain a college degree, and so today, you are joining a truly elite group," Dunn said in praise of the graduates.

After the president's speech, the Outstanding Senior Woman, Jennifer Lynn Gilkey of Nortonville, spoke. Accompanying her on stage was her teddy bear. She explained her bear had seen her best and worst moments, and how it was only fitting that he be there to witness that one. Gilkey

graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science in business with an area in accounting and information systems.

The Outstanding Senior Man was Scott Ellison of St. Charles, Mo. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha and president of the Student Government Association. Ellison graduated with a bachelor of science in business with an area in business administration. In his speech, Ellison reflected on his education and how hard he had worked toward graduation.

"I love Murray State University," Ellison said.

"I love everything about it. We owe Murray State a lifetime of gratitude."

After Ellison's speech, Dr. Dunn talked about the 10-year anniversary of the residential college system. He said

the system, which was put into place to promote leadership, responsibility, tradition and enduring friendships, was and still is a huge success.

Dr. Bonnie Higginson, Residential College Council Chair, then took the stage to assist in the investiture of the students into their residential colleges. During this process, all graduates formally become lifelong members and alumni of their residential colleges.

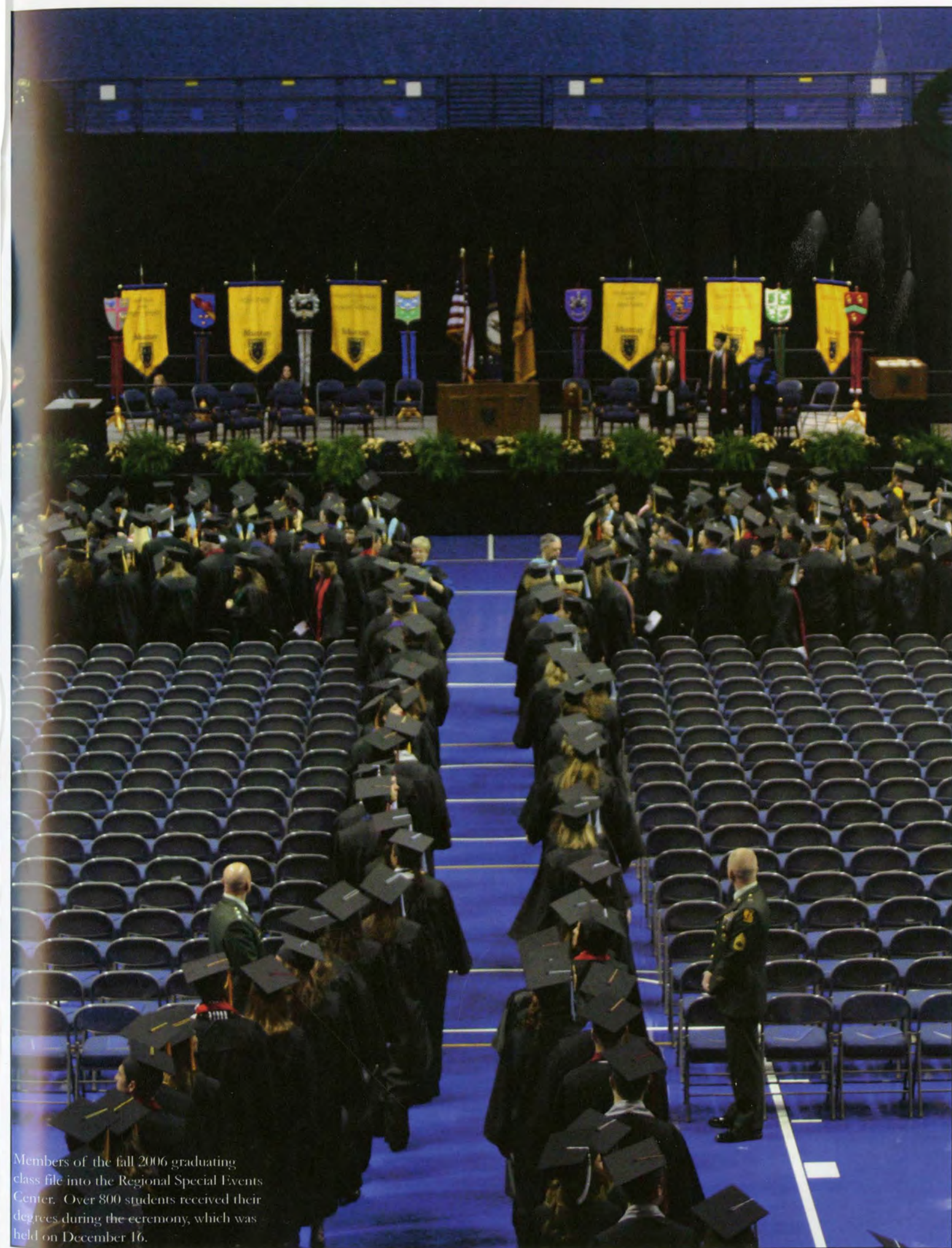
Degrees were given out after the investiture. The Alma Mater was then sung as the commencement ceremony ended.

Some students planned to continue their education, while others planned to pursue career opportunities. Either way, as they threw their caps in the air, the graduates closed one chapter of their lives and began yet another new one.

As part of the procession, a member from each residential college bears their respective college's shield. Shield bearers were chosen by the residential college heads.



"We owe Murray State a lifetime of gratitude."



Members of the fall 2006 graduating class file into the Regional Special Events Center. Over 800 students received their degrees during the ceremony, which was held on December 16.



Performing at All Campus Sing, several international students showcase their native attire. The group sang "We are the World" at the event, which was held April 18 on the steps of Lovett Auditorium.

[blending]

international students find ways to fit in on campus cultures

story by rebecca spurlock
photographs by caitlin dunnagan

As more students from nations around the world saw the advantages of obtaining an education in the United States, the number of international students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees rose dramatically. The English as a Second Language program increased by nearly 25 percent, with the international program having a total of 350 international students representing 53 different countries enrolled.

Although there were many schools to choose from, Murray State was appealing to many students. "I came to Murray because it is accredited and offers Belize in-state tuition," said Dhami Mahitani, a senior marketing major from Belize. "It is also a small, safe town."

Mahitani, who served as vice-president of the International Student Association and president of the Belize Student Organization, explained that it was easier for her to interact with other international students than with American students. "I have some American friends from work, but not in my classes," she said.

She credited this lack of interaction partially to her not living in a residential college, as well as the curiosity American students have about international students. "Americans think that international students do not know how to speak English very well so they do not try to talk with us," she said. Mahitani encouraged other international students to be patient and allow plenty of time to build friendships with other students on campus.

Aside from the education they received while attending Murray State, international students were also exposed to the American culture, something that would help them both in the short

and long run.

A native of Heilongjiang Province, Northeast China, Zhonghai "Buzz" Zheng, received his master's degree in economics from Harbin Institute of Technology in 1998. He worked as a reporter and editor at *China Daily*, the largest English-language newspaper in China, for eight years prior to coming to the United States for a graduate degree in journalism and mass communications.

Zheng said that although learning first-hand about a different culture has been a good experience, his study in the United States would have a bigger pay-off in the future. "I can get a better-paid job back home," he said. "A majority of the Fortune 500 Global Companies have made presence in China. They offer very competitive remunerations."

For job applicants to be considered at these Fortune 500 companies, they must have had exposure to a multicultural environment, Zheng said. "Exposure to the American culture will no doubt increase my job opportunities," he said.

Although this exposure is important for career purposes, Zheng said it will help him in other areas of life. "My experience in this open and diversified society will foster cultural appreciation and global perspective, helping me think out of the box," he said. "The new way of thinking will be with me all my life."

Exchange student Helen Lee, a junior from South Korea, agreed that the exposure to American culture was beneficial. "First of all, I think I need to experience the culture to learn English," she said. "That's why I decided to study abroad."

*"The new way
of thinking
will be with me
all my life."*

International students enjoy pizza and drinks at a meeting for the Institute of International Studies at Woods Hall. The IIS helped students from nations all over the world with travel, scholarships and visa restrictions.



[continued on page 32]

[continued from page 31]

While on campus, Lee found that becoming involved in Rotaract and volunteering at the Alumni Center were both great ways to meet new people. However, she did have some difficulty with the English language. "The most important and difficult thing is how to communicate in English," Lee said. "My mother tongue is Korean, not English. Besides, people have different accents and speed while conversing. Sometimes I am lost while I talk to my friends or while taking class. I believe I'm getting better and better every day."

Lichao "Scott" Xing, a graduate student from Chifeng, Inner Mongolia, graduated from Beijing Language and Culture University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in teaching Chinese as a second language. He attended Murray State to earn a master's degree in journalism and mass communications.

To help assimilate to the new culture and easily meet other students, Xing was employed on campus at the International Center for Economic Development and Cultural Studies at the Kentucky World Trade Center office. Xing said he appreciated the recruiting and enrolling strategies, as well as the criteria of universities in the United States as compared to those in China.

"I think the U.S. has done a better job in appreciating students' overall value," Xing said. "Here, the education is more student-oriented. Students play a more active role in class and have more chances of involving in practical work."

Among those available to help international students was Kara Hussmann, English as a Second Language Student Advisor and Director of International Students. Her position as director involved discussing housing issues, roommate conflicts and transportation for when students first arrived in the United States. She also taught some classes for international students.

"I enjoy working with international students," Hussmann said. "Working with them has taught me to be culturally sensitive." Hussmann learned that even small things, like hand gestures, were extremely important in communicating with international students.

On many occasions, students asked Hussmann how to make friendships. "Some, not the majority, of students on campus will go out of their way to befriend international students," she

said. "I tell students not to give up. They have to make an effort to get involved. They have to be proactive, and do their best to make friends and also make the best of the opportunity they have been given."

Bill McKibben, a colleague of Hussmann, served as International Student Advisor and Scholar Coordinator. His position entailed his involvement in international students' class schedules, changes and problems. "I am merely a liaison between the students and various departments on campus," he said.

McKibben clarified any problems going on in a student's life with another person who might not be able to interpret the situation as well. He also dealt with immigration issues, including whether or not a student was legally allowed to work on campus. He encouraged students to become more involved in campus activities through organizing several programs, such as a soccer tournament, international bazaars, panel discussions for students to share their culture with one another and International Education Week, which was held in November.

International students were also encouraged to participate in other programs around campus, such as sports, residential college events and religious organizations.

Zheng chose to attend different churches to gain an even greater understanding of the American culture. "I was raised an atheist," he said. "Since I came here, I started to sample different churches around the city. I have made some good friends at the church."

Going to different churches also allowed Zheng to learn of the interesting differences in each denomination.

"I have discovered the distilled wisdom in the Bible," he said. "There are some big differences between denominations—not only the service procedures, but also the interpretations and understandings of different issues."

McKibben had some good advice for all international students. "What I tell international students is if you want something, you have to go out and get it," he said. "Make the best of the situation you have been given. International students might have to make the first move sometimes, even if it is asking someone in class to be study partners. The worst that could happen is they say no."

An international student reads to himself in the privacy of Woods Hall. Having a place to go on campus that was dedicated to international students made Murray State feel more like home.



Members of the Thai Student Association sell authentic Thai food at Tent City during Homecoming. Several international student organizations participated in the event, which was held in Roy Stewart Stadium to showcase University organizations.



a different perspective

new president brings fresh ideas to campus

story by amanda smith

When Dr. Randy Dunn took office as Murray State University President in December, he did so with the satisfaction of coming home.

After spending the previous two years serving as Illinois State School Superintendent, Dunn was eager to return to higher education.

Dunn was most drawn to the University because of the climate of the campus. "The feeling of community and belongingness among students, faculty, staff and people in the community is something you get a very strong sense of," he said.

A self-proclaimed "farm kid" from northwestern Illinois, Dunn received his undergraduate degree in elementary education from Illinois State University in 1980, according to news.siu.edu. He spent 14 years in the public school system, working his way up from elementary teacher to district superintendent as he earned his masters and doctorate degrees. Prior to his tenure as State Superintendent, Dunn served as an associate professor at the University of Memphis and Chair of the Department of Educational Administration and Higher Education at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Still, Dunn said that his favorite job was being a father to his two daughters. Lindsey, 24, worked in public relations in Chicago and planned to begin work on her doctorate and follow in her dad's footsteps as a university professor. Erin, 21, was a psychology major at the University of Illinois. "My proudest accomplishment is being a father to them," he said.

Some of Dunn's other favorite activities included watching college football, eating pepperoni pizza and chasing Steely Dan, his favorite band, around the country. "I will go almost anywhere they're playing, anytime," he said.

The new president's interest in music extended to the XM satellite radio in his car, where he said he frequented 70s, classic rock, classic soul and contemporary jazz stations.

Dunn was also a runner. He participated in

cross-country and track in high school, and still ran for exercise whenever he could find time. "I'm not dedicated enough to get up at 5 a.m. to do it, but I do like to run," he said.

Dunn was, however, committed to running the University.

One of his major goals at Murray State was to establish good communication lines with students. "A big part of the president's role is to make sure communication takes place in many ways and on many levels," he said. "Communication is the lifeblood of a complex organization."

One part of Dunn's plan to improve communication was to set up a weblog to interact with students. His web-based blog included forums for both his comments and for student feedback. "It will give me a good sense of what's going on," he said.

Dunn also intended to focus on continuing to build excellence at the University, he said. His plans included some "very serious fundraising" to help build new facilities, which he hoped would eventually include a new library and a building that would house all student services in one place.

In addition, the new president intended to explore partnering with the region and state. He was interested in finding ways to support K-12 education, economic development and healthcare. "The University needs to bridge and link to the region and Commonwealth to make it a better place to live," he said.

More than anything, Dunn was looking forward to making a difference as University president. Said Dunn: "It gives you opportunities to do all kinds of great things."

Dunn's advice to students:

"Don't take this stuff too seriously. You want to be serious in your work and responsibilities, but don't get caught up in yourself and your daily hassles. There's so much more to life than the daily grind. Don't let that stand in the way of making your life what you want it to be."

Playing the trombone, Dr. Randy Dunn showcases his musical talents with the Racer Pep Band. Dunn sat in with the pep band during the Racer's basketball games held at the Regional Special Events Center Feb. 8. (photograph by elaine kight)





Dr. Randy Dunn stands in his office, located in Wells Hall. During his first months as president of the University, Dunn began posting his own blog, called *Open Book*, to address student concerns. (photograph by stephanie harrington)

[dr. randy dunn]

the investiture

dr. randy j. dunn is inaugurated as 11th president

of a new beginning

story by rachel ruehling

photographs by fred mullane, camerawork usa inc.

On April 20, nearly a year after Dr. Randy Dunn took the position as president of Murray State, he stepped onto the stage of Lovett Auditorium dressed in his presidential robes and accepted the honor of being the 11th president since 1922.

Dunn was interviewed alongside other presidential candidates weeks before he was selected as the new president.

"My notes say that Dr. Dunn was very well-spoken and made eye contact with everyone," said student regent Scott Ellison, a graduate student from St. Charles, Mo., who spoke at the inauguration about his first impressions of President Dunn. "After the interview, I went to shake hands with Dr. Dunn and he told me to call him Randy. I thought that was nice."

Representatives from all over Kentucky attended the event to show their support of Dr. Dunn. Various collegiate representatives included: Wally O. Montgomery, University of Louisville; Mary Evans Sias, Kentucky State University; Dayna Seelig, Morehead State University; and Rodney B. Piercey, Eastern Kentucky University.

Also representing education institutions were: Gary A. Ransdell, Western Kentucky University; Robert J. Imhoff, Mid-Continent University; James E. Selbe, Hopkinsville Community College; Judith Lewis Rhoads, Madisonville Community College; Michael B. McCall, Kentucky Community and Technical College System; and Barbara Veazey, West Kentucky Community and Technical College.

Several members of the Murray State University board of regents also spoke during the ceremony. Regents member Olivia Burr gave the invocation and regents chair Marilyn Buchanon welcomed the audience. Board members Gina Winchester, staff regent, and Dr. Jay Morgan, faculty regent, also gave their remarks.

Sharon Green, president of the Alumni As-

sociation, represented Murray State alumni along with Larry Elkins, judge executive of Calloway County, and Tom Rushing, mayor of Murray. Rep. Melvin B. Henley spoke on behalf of the Kentucky House of Representatives and Sen. Kenneth Winters spoke as a representative of the State Senate.

"A presidential inauguration is really much more than the investiture of a new president..."

In his speech, Dunn told the large crowd that the first president, John Wesley Carr, had left behind a list of how to make Murray State a better school. Dunn explained each point President Carr had mentioned and talked about how all the goals

had been met, but that he would still strive for excellence in Western Kentucky. President Dunn also spoke in honor of all the students and faculty members who tragically lost their lives in the Virginia Tech shooting. The entire auditorium participated in a moment of silence for all those who had been killed in the April 16 massacre.

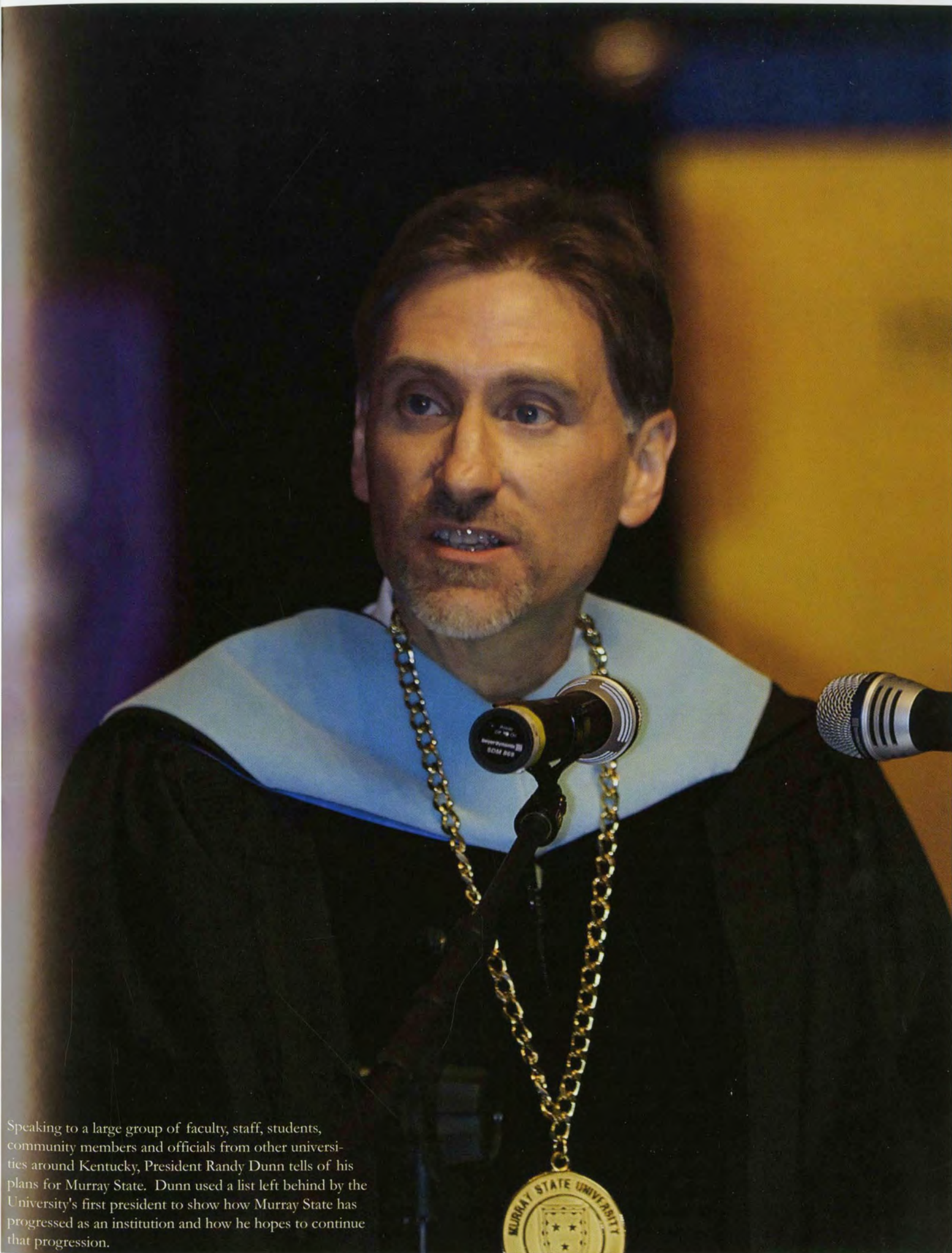
"A presidential inauguration is really much more than the investiture of a new president," Dunn said. "An inauguration ceremony reaffirms the meaning and power of the shared mission of all of us who make up the university community. It reminds us of the institution's unique traditions and pays tribute to its rich history."

President Dunn had already made an impact on the school in his short time as president. Students could see Dr. Dunn outside walking around on campus, enjoying dinners with students and faculty at Winslow Dining Hall and playing in the pep band during a home basketball game.

"I thank each of you who are part of the Murray State University family in attendance here today," Dunn said. "The great students, dedicated staff, outstanding faculty, community members and our friends—your presence here today is symbolic and significant of what we have come together to celebrate."

President Randy Dunn speaks with faculty members outside Lovett Auditorium after his inauguration. Dunn was the 11th president of Murray State.





Speaking to a large group of faculty, staff, students, community members and officials from other universities around Kentucky, President Randy Dunn tells of his plans for Murray State. Dunn used a list left behind by the University's first president to show how Murray State has progressed as an institution and how he hopes to continue that progression.

[hitting the students perform in the 49th annual all campus sing right note]

story by rachel ruehling
photographs by caitlin dunnagan

On a warm, beautiful April 18, hundreds of students gathered in the Quad with their food, blankets, chairs and suntan lotion. No, this wasn't a great day for tanning; it was the event that students wait for all year: All Campus Sing.

Performed on the infamous steps of Lovett Auditorium, the 49th annual All Campus Sing was hosted by the music sorority Sigma Alpha Iota, and had a disco theme. The women of SAI opened the show singing their chorale while clad in tie dye t-shirts, and closed the show alongside the members of the music fraternity Phi Mu Alpha.

"I felt such a rush being up in front of everyone while I performed with my sorority, Sigma Alpha Iota," said Cesley Hamilton, a freshman from Utica. "Being involved with this program has been an experience of a lifetime."

The event was split into four divisions: residential colleges, independent, sorority and fraternity.

There were four competitors in the residential colleges division. Elizabeth College performed a laid back melody, *Oh, Elizabeth*; Clark College presented a witty, exciting theme called *Chicago: the Musical*; Springer-Franklin put on a funny show involving different songs about getting married in their *Vegas Wedding* show; and Hester College sang *Jump Jivin'* with pumped-up excitement and costumes.

"I enjoyed sitting out there with friends and bonding with all kinds of different students and just having fun," said Lauren Woolen, a freshman from Princeton who attended the event.

The next division was for independent entries. This group was very diverse and included: Sock 'n' Buskin, who performed a fun rendition of *The Muppet Show*; Black Student Council, who staged its very own *Sister Act II* show including nun outfits; Kappa Sigma, with its own version of *Country Western*, a medley of popular country songs; Tau Kappa Epsilon, who performed an entertaining piece called *Songs of 2006 in Polka/Barber Shop* using many of the hit songs from 2006; International Students, who dressed up in their home coun-

tries' attire and sang *We Are The World*; the Wesley Foundation, who sang the *Veggie Tales* theme song while dressed up as different vegetables; and the Honors Program, who performed *Nightmare Before Christmas*.

In the sorority division, Alpha Sigma Alpha staged *Kiss* by using various songs about kisses and even had the "members" of KISS make an appearance. Alpha Omicron Pi performed *Friendship*, a medley of different songs about being friends. Each girl performing with AOPi was paired with someone else in a matching costume, including Woody and Buzz

Lightyear, two crayons and salt and pepper. Sigma Sigma sang in its very best '80s workout outfits to *Workin' It*. Alpha Delta Pi women dressed in t-shirts from different vacation hot spots and sang *Travel* as they expressed their traveling experiences through song. The last group, Alpha Gamma Delta, turned the heat up on the competition and even brought in the Murray Fire Department to help while they acted like doctors with their theme *Medicine*.

"My favorite groups that I saw perform were AOPi and Pi Kappa Alpha," Woolen said. "I really enjoyed seeing my speech lab teacher performing."

In the fraternity division, Alpha Phi Alpha gave its rendition of *90's Hip-Hop*; Lambda Chi Alpha performed a hilarious routine from the movie *Forrest Gump*; Pi Kappa Alpha put on a smooth show with *Motown On My Mind*; Alpha Sigma Phi used the game craze *Guitar Hero* for their show; Phi Kappa Tau sang hit songs from *The Beatles*; and, as the night dwindled down, Sigma Phi Epsilon set the steps of Lovett under smoke by using dry ice to create their *Superstitious* scene for the audience.

Phi Mu Alpha and Sigma Alpha Iota closed the evening with their performances of *Rockapella* and *Disco Survives*.

Said Hamilton: "Seeing so many people come out to support music and their peers on campus has really made me see that this is a campus full of so many different people, but we're all connected by Racer pride."

Brian Leinnaman, a freshman from Florissant, Mo., and a dance partner perform in Clark College's *Chicago: the Musical*. Hester College won the Residential College division for the third straight year.





Members of Sigma Sigma Sigma, wearing their 1980s attire, dance to the song *Workin' It*. Tri Sigma won the sorority division of the All Campus Sing competition.

[vagina]

annual production gives women on campus chance to express themselves

[monologues]

story by rachel ruehling
photographs by caitlin dunnagan

Where could one go on a campus to find women yelling about their vaginas on Valentine's Day? Not the Health Services building or any of the women's restrooms around campus, but in Wrather Museum, where women of all ages ranted about their vaginas through stories of wartime rape, facts and statistics about women being abused and even some stories involving pleasure. Their tales made some cringe with embarrassment, others cry and still others cheer about their own "down there."

The Vagina Monologues stories were compiled by Eve Ensler, an American playwright and women's activist, after she interviewed hundreds of women about their very own vaginas. Together, the stories made a hilarious, witty, soul-touching show. It was meant to entertain and educate the masses by informing women they have the right to protect themselves and to show men that every woman's vagina is her own and it has an inner voice.

Brittany Goodenough, a junior from Huntsville, Ala., served as student director of the production for the second of the three years the show has been on campus.

"Women need to know that they aren't alone and men need to know, well, everything they didn't know about women before," Goodenough said. "Men don't need to be kept in the dark about rape, abuse, incest or periods. Women aren't sheltered from the woes of men, why are men afforded the luxury of claiming they're 'uncomfortable' with talking about ours?"

Women around the world were asking for their voices to be heard and *Vagina Monologues* gave them that opportunity. VDAY was the common

name used for this show to raise money for women's rights. *The Vagina Monologues* advertisements stated the show was reclaiming peace and spreading the word about violence against women.

Some money earned from the shows was given back to the community and to the VDAY campaign itself. Ninety percent of the profit was given to local women's organizations.

Jenny Wilkins, a sophomore from Benton, performed the monologue, *My Angry Vagina*, as part of the show. She said she had major stage

fright, but performing other women's stories helped her overcome it.

"I've always heard *The Vagina Monologues* is a phenomenal show, so when my friends started getting involved, I tried out as well," Wilkins said. "It's been one of the best experiences of my college career. I had no idea that so many women suffered such horrible things around the world. I had no idea about wartime rapes and just how common they were. It definitely makes me want to take a stand for those women in any way that I can. I know that if I didn't know about it, many other people probably don't either. I want to help raise awareness in any way that I can."

Unity and taking a stand for women of all shapes, sizes, colors, religions and nationalities was the focus of women's rights all around the world.

"We have women from all walks of life that performed in the show: students, faculty, rape crisis therapists, lesbians, heterosexuals, alternative women and sorority women," Goodenough said.

"We are literally the women of Murray State."

Lacey Sparks, a freshman from Paducah, performs at *The Vagina Monologues* production. The annual show brought hundreds of students and community members to Wrather Museum in its third year on campus.





Expressing her inner self, Jenny Wilkins, a sophomore from Benton, performs the piece *My Angry Vagina*. Wilkins was one of the many new women who performed in this year's production of *The Vagina Monologues*.

Members of Alpha Omicron Pi celebrate after winning the Step Off competition. AOPi's performance had a theme of casinos and gangsters.



steppin' up

students perform in step off competition to benefit march of dimes

the game

story by rachel ruehling
photographs by caitlin dunnagan

Excitement filled the sweet spring air around Lovett Auditorium in the early evening March 14. Once inside the building, the excitement grew even more intense. Students, faculty members and community members gathered to watch local groups, fraternities, sororities and even a faculty team perform in Alpha Phi Alpha's annual Step Off to benefit the March of Dimes.

Stepping, a form of storytelling and communication, involved stomping, body slapping, various arm and hand signs and elaborate steps. Stepping began in the early 20th century with African veterans of World War II. It has evolved today to an art form performed for entertainment by sororities, fraternities and various groups.

Groups performed in one of three divisions at Alpha Phi Alpha's event: independent, fraternity and sorority. The local group known as the *So Hot Steppers* performed first, showing off their unique talents and high-energy stepping routine.

"It's not so much that it's exciting but I just love listening to the music and hearing the roll calls of all the sororities and fraternities when their names are called," Bonnie Kirkham, a sophomore from Franklin who attended the event, said.

Sigma Phi Epsilon was the only entry in the fraternity division and wowed the audience with its routine, in which its members acted like dummies. The men stepped up to the plate, even though they did not have any competition, and showed off their skills as entertainers.

Next was the final division with the most entries: the sororities. Members of Alpha Delta Pi performed as working women during World War II, Sigma Sigma Sigma performed as run-

away criminals, Alpha Gamma Delta performed with an Egyptian theme, Alpha Omicron Pi with a casino theme, and Alpha Sigma Alpha as the Women In White.

Weeks of hard work, sweat, money and time went into these shows. Learning steps, making costumes and finding music were tasks that every group needed to complete in order to perform.

"The best part was the entire day of the step show," said CC Lowe, a sophomore from Lexington who performed with Alpha Delta Pi. "Getting ready for it, finally putting our entire outfits together, doing our hair, which I loved, and then performing were great. Being on the stage was exhilarating and such an adrenaline rush!"

The judges tabulated while a guest stepping group took the stage. Seemingly old men and women filed out with walkers, canes and wheelchairs. That mysterious group shuffled slowly onto the stage and then disrobed themselves to reveal the faculty step team, with Dr. Randy Dunn, university president, as their captain. The faculty members showed off the steps they had practiced and entertained the audience while they anticipated the winner of the competition.

When the judges had tallied their scores, all the step teams gathered on stage for the announcement of the big winner in the sorority category.

Alpha Omicron Pi took home the gold in the 2007 Step Off event. The women had worked hard on their routine for the casino and gangster theme in their performance.

With the end of the show and the winners picked, the audience left still feeling a high from the rush of the music and movement on stage.

*"Being on the stage
was exhilarating
and such an
adrenaline rush..."*

Ryan Schuler, a freshman from Louisville, steps with Sigma Phi Epsilon, the only fraternity to enter the competition. The men acted like dummies for their performance at Step Off, which was held March 14.



live lauren wilson receives miss msu crown on april 7 at lovett

story by rachel ruehling
photos by paul hollanday

On a cool Saturday evening, 15 girls from organizations across campus stood on the stage in Lovett Auditorium competing for the title known as Miss MSU.

Women on campus represented groups such as Alpha Gamma Delta, the Honors Program, the Speech and Debate Union, Alpha Delta Pi, the Women's Center, Alpha Sigma Alpha, Alpha Omicron Pi, Hester College, American Humanics Youth and Non-Profit Organization, Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, Racer Girls dance team and the Murray State Panhellenic Council. They all spent hours rehearsing speeches, trying on different outfits to wear for the evening wear competition and practicing the opening number.

"My favorite part of the competition was the opening number," Lauren Wilson, a junior from Benton, said. "I had a really great time because the band that was playing was from the Journey Church, which is a place I have put a lot of my time into. It was fun dancing to music my friends were playing."

The girls had formal interviews prior to pageant night. To be eligible to compete for the Miss MSU crown, a contestant must have been in school for one complete school year, had a GPA above 3.0 from the past semester, been nominated by a student organization and completed an interview. From these interviews, the top 15 were picked, as well as three alternates. The women were judged on their performances in the opening dance routine and their introduction.

After the opening number and introductions, the Master of Ceremony, Scott Ellison, a graduate student from St. Charles, Mo., introduced the evening gown portion of the competition. The audience was told about each contestant's accomplishments, activities in school and future plans.

After the judges tabulated the scores, the top five women were picked. In no particular order, they were Brooke Fugate, representing American Humanics Youth and Non-Profit Organization; Lauren Wilson, representing Alpha Gamma Delta; Jessica Moore, representing the Honors Program; Cammon Knapp, representing the men

of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity; and Erin Strader, representing Alpha Gamma Delta.

These finalists were then interviewed in front of the judges and the audience.

"Two things I would place in a time capsule would be Bach Cantata and an organic chemistry book," contestant Jessica Moore, a junior from Dexter, Mo., said in response to the question she was asked.

After a round of thought-provoking questions like the one Moore had to answer, the judges decided who to pick as Miss MSU.

Wilson won the crown.

"It feels amazing to be crowned Miss MSU 2007," she said. "Never in my wildest dreams would I have ever thought I would win such an honor. I am still in shock, but so excited to hold this title."

For winning, Wilson would represent Murray State in the Homecoming Parade and other various Homecoming activities, the Christmas Parade, Miss MSU 2008 and the Kentucky Mountain Laurel Festival in May 2008. She also received an \$850 scholarship.

Brooke Fugate, a senior from Lexington, won first runner up.

"My Miss MSU experience will for sure be one of my best college memories," she said. "I couldn't imagine why anyone would turn down the opportunity. Being able to represent an organization you believe in is a very fulfilling experience, plus you get to get all dressed up, which is always a good time!"

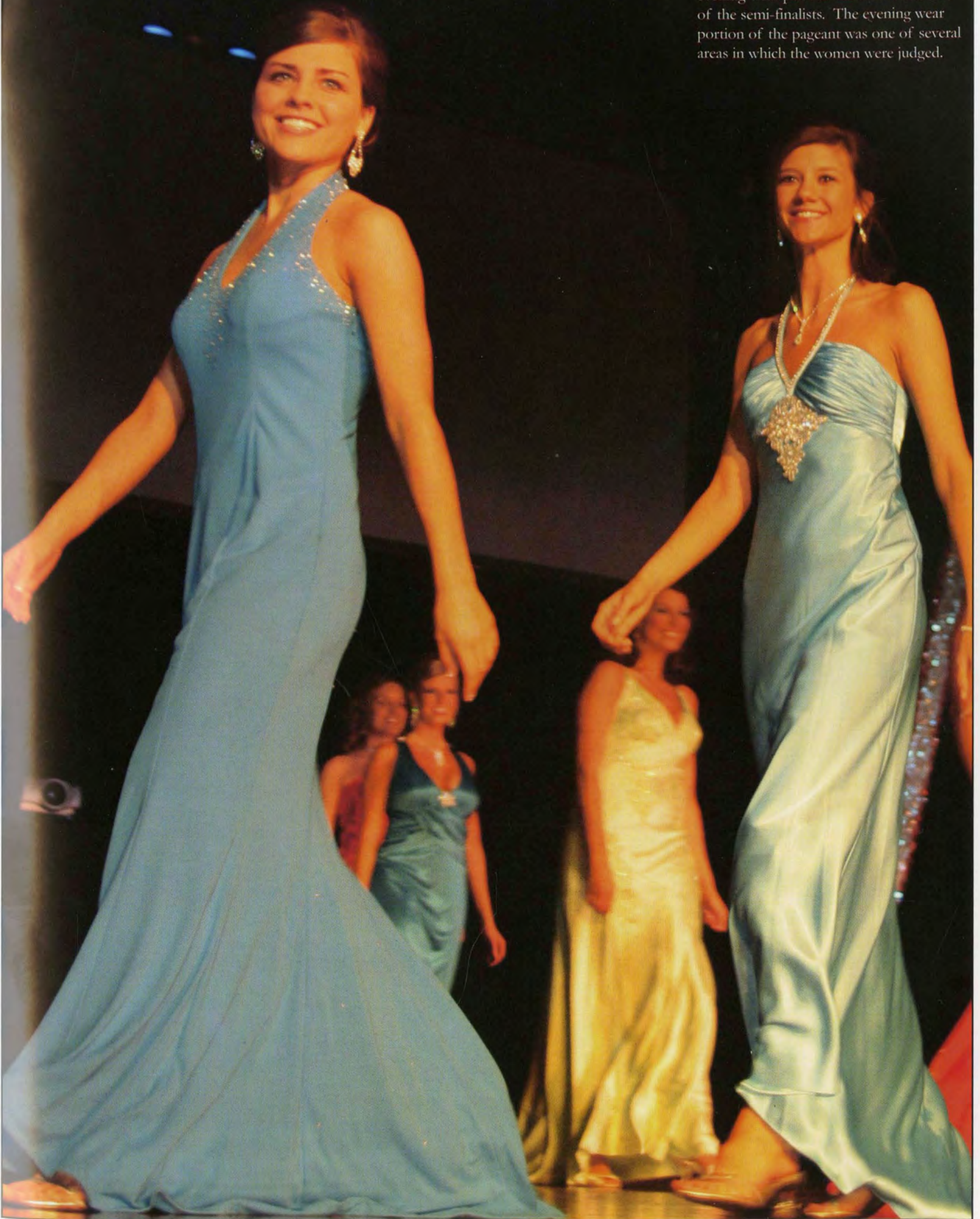
Moore, fourth runner up, said she was apprehensive about the pageant. "The only other pageant that I have competed in was the Little Miss Snowflake pageant when I was 5 years old," she said. "It was very intimidating working with so many wonderful and influential women throughout our campus. So many of them were super-involved and ideal Murray State students. I really felt that any of them could have been the ideal Miss MSU. The fact that I was selected to be in the top five was an amazing honor."

*"My Miss MSU
experience will
for sure be one
of my best college
memories..."*

Lauren Wilson, a junior from Benton, is crowned Miss MSU by Casie Janet, a senior from Cape Girardeau, Mo., who served as the Campus Activities Board's Miss MSU chair. Wilson represented Alpha Gamma Delta sorority in the pageant.



Contestants Cammon Knapp and Amanda Hemingway grace the stage in their evening wear prior to the announcement of the semi-finalists. The evening wear portion of the pageant was one of several areas in which the women were judged.



snacks, sandwiches and smiles

visits to downey's food cart brighten students' days

story by amanda smith

photograph by caitlin dunnagan

Years ago, Roxann Downey set up a "little bitty table" in the Business Building and sold snacks for Food Services with just her cash box and a calculator. By 2006, Downey's small snack stand had grown into a booming business and her smile had become a familiar sight to students who frequented the building's second floor.

The school year was Downey's eleventh working full-time at Murray State, a job that was originally part-time and that she fell into accidentally. A friend recommended her for a position with Food Services, though she wasn't seeking employment. "They just called me on the phone and I went. I've been here ever since," she said.

Downey's university career began at Fast Track, Food Services' convenience store, and later moved across campus to the Business Building.

Downey's job at Murray State was not her only responsibility. She was also a single mother and stepmother to what she called a "yours, mine, and ours" family of six sons. Her husband was killed in an accident with a drunk driver shortly after she began full-time work on campus. She lived on a horseless horse farm and spent her free time relaxing with activities such as crocheting, fishing and creating flower arrangements.

However, Downey's job was a large part of her life, as well as a favorite part. "I am truly blessed," she said. "I get up every day and go to a job I really love. When you do that, you are so lucky."

For Downey, the workday began at 5:30 a.m., when she clocked in at Winslow Dining Hall and began the daily task of making sandwiches

and gathering the drinks, chips and other items she would sell to students before closing up shop around 3 p.m. The early-morning "packing it over" to the Business Building in a little red wagon was Downey's least favorite part of the job.

On the other hand, Downey had difficulty choosing just one favorite aspect of her job. "I love it all," she said, "especially you guys."

Downey's affection for students was certainly reciprocal. Students who visited the food cart frequently commented on their positive relationships with its proprietor. "She knows my name, she knows my face, and if I don't know what I want to eat, she'll tell me," said Jess Simpson, a sophomore from Louisville.

Scott Adair, a senior from Calvert City, had an especially close relationship with Downey. Beginning in August 2006, she made him a special sandwich every Tuesday and Thursday. "I asked if they had anything that was on whole wheat bread, and she said, 'No, but I can make you one,'" he said. She began doing just that. "She even puts my name on the wrapper," Adair said.

Betsy Inman, a junior from Louisville, appreciated both Downey's friendly, flexible attitude and her cheerfulness. "She always makes me feel better when I get out of economics and want to pull my hair out," she said.

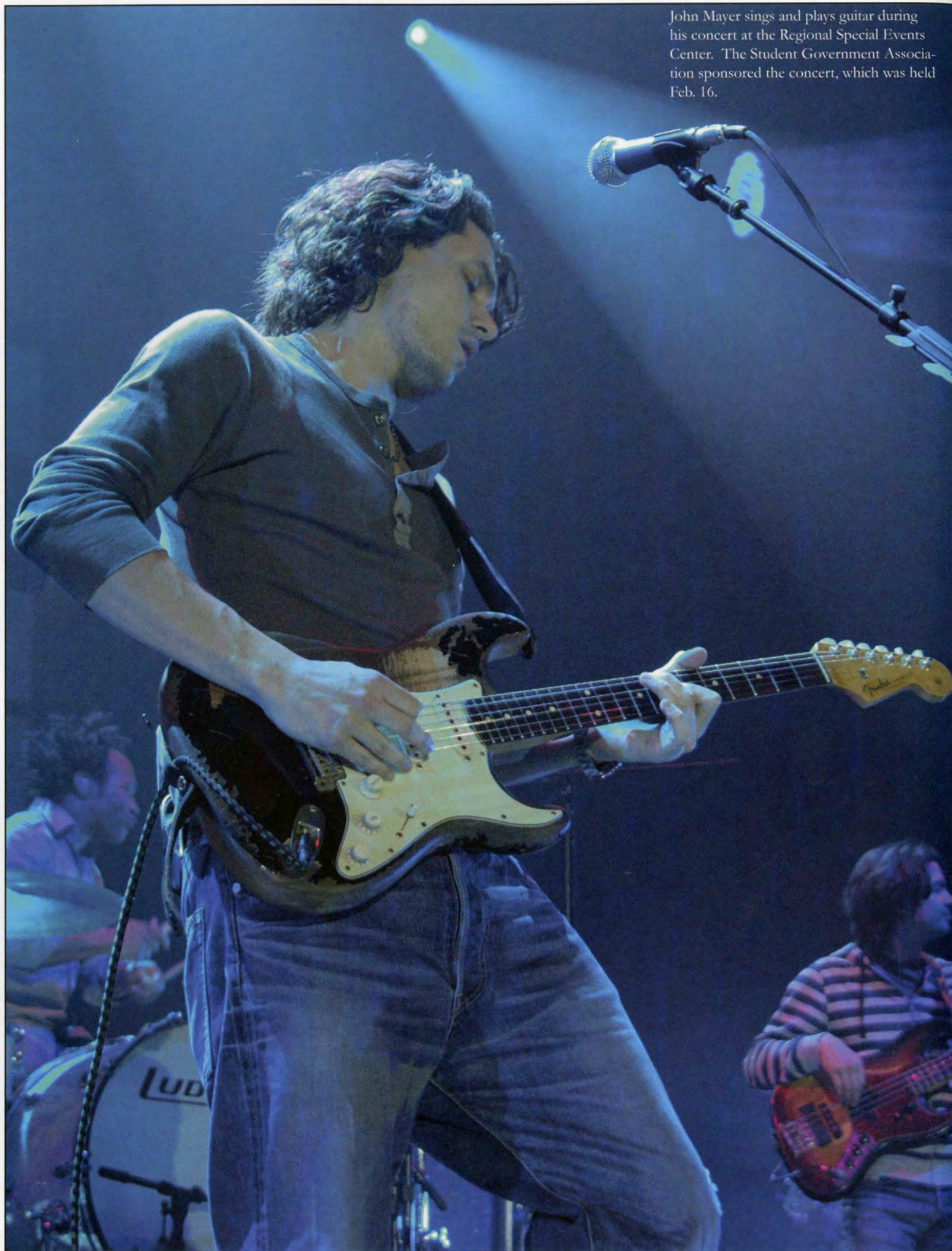
Adair appreciated Downey's friendly attitude toward her customers and her ability to make a bad day a little better. "She is a great person who truly cares for the students and about what she does," he said. "She will listen to any problem you have, and she is a pleasure to be around."



Roxann Downey greets students with her familiar smile at the Business Building food cart. Downey offered everything from sweets to salads and sandwiches nearly every day for students.

[roxann downey]

John Mayer sings and plays guitar during his concert at the Regional Special Events Center. The Student Government Association sponsored the concert, which was held Feb. 16.



[hitting the artists perform on campus, entertain students right note]

[john mayer]

story by stephanie harrington
photographs by caitlin dunnagan

Feb. 16 saw one of the country's most famous recording artists taking the stage in the Regional Special Events Center—John Mayer.

Mayer headlined a two-performance concert just days after winning two Grammys. He was awarded for Pop Vocal Album of the Year for *Continuum* and another for Best Male Vocal Pop Performance for his song *Waiting on the World to Change*. Mayer was nominated in four other categories, including Best Solo Rock Vocal Performance for his appearance on the Cars soundtrack with his rendition of *Route 66*, and Album of the Year for *Continuum*.

While his success at the Grammys could not have been predicted when the local show was scheduled, it gave many students a rare chance to see a well-known artist shortly after he was recognized at the international awards show.

Brooke Vorbeck, a sophomore from Henderson, had seen live performances before, but the John Mayer concert was the first major one she had attended.

"It was a great experience and I felt privileged to see someone as big as John Mayer for my first concert, especially in such a small town and school as Murray," she said. "You expect to hear

about him performing in Tampa and Chicago, but a lot of my friends outside of Murray were surprised to hear that I was going, and going in Murray."

After his performance, there was no shortage of awe from students. The buzz was not only about his vocals and performance, but about his stories.

"It was interesting that he went on and on about time travel," Ashley Lubberda, a junior from Belleville, Ill., said. "Then he said that his next song had absolutely nothing to do with time travel, it's just something he thought we should know about."

Mayer's performance was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many students, since the tickets were affordable and the show was close to campus. The University and community repaid Mayer for his consideration through their attendance, and he hopefully set the stage for other big-time performers to grace Murray's campus.

"I never thought twice about buying my ticket," Lubberda said. "And I'll never regret my decision to go see him. I don't know that I'll ever have another chance like that."

Singing one of his chart-topping songs, John Mayer performs *Waiting on the World to Change*. Among Mayer's other popular songs he performed while at the RSEC were *Gravity*, *I'm Gonna Find Another You* and *Your Body is a Wonderland*.





[mat kearney]

story by stephanie harrington
photograph by caitlin dunnagan

While many students saw Mat Kearney only as the opening act for John Mayer, the Feb. 16 concert in the Regional Special Events Center was not Kearney's first visit to campus. Earlier in the year, Kearney performed for free at the Curris Center Theater.

Rachel Ruehling, a freshman from Elizabethtown, had heard his single on the radio, and jumped at the chance to see him in a free concert. "I already liked the song a lot," she said, "and I absolutely loved the other songs he performed that night."

Kearney was relatively new to the airwaves, but was blowing them up regardless. In April 2006, he was featured on America Online's "Breakers," which was a run-down of up-and-coming artists. In August, Kearney hit the road with John Mayer, who he had been compared to, while he and Sheryl Crow were co-touring. Aside from being performed while on the road with Mayer, Kearney's songs were featured on the hit shows *Grey's Anatomy*, *One Tree Hill* and *Jericho*.

Although Kearney performed around the nation, he came to campus and played a free show in the Curris Center Theater. He captivated the audience, though small compared to the Mayer show at the RSEC, and proved that he deserved his place as an opener for Mayer.

"He seemed comfortable and excited on stage," Ruehling said. "It was refreshing."

Kearney seemed to gain a bit of loyalty from the campus as a headlining performer after they were exposed to his music.

While many comparisons from music critics group Kearney with Mayer, and many students associated the two together after touring together, Kearney made his own, unique impression on campus in both performances, as well as creating a major name for himself in the music world.

[montgomery gentry]

story by stephanie harrington
photograph by caitlin dunnagan

On Oct. 28, country came to Murray when Montgomery Gentry, Phil Vassar and The Wreckers set foot onstage at the Regional Special Events Center, performing for a large crowd of students and community members.

The Wreckers, a duet group featuring former solo-artist Michelle Branch and her former back-up singer Jessica Harp, opened the show performing their debut hit, *Leave the Pieces*. The two took the stage and quickly warmed the crowd up for the concert.

After the performance by The Wreckers, Phil Vassar took the stage. Vassar was a renowned country artist with No. 1 hits like, *Just Another Day in Paradise*, *Six-Pack Summer* and *American Child*.

Well-known for his songwriting and piano playing, Vassar performed a lengthy set showing off all of his artistic talents.

Chelsea Kubicki, a sophomore from Scheller, Ill., and several of her friends were given backstage passes to the concert. "It was exhilarating," she said. "One of [Vassar's] guys came by and asked my friend Alicia if she wanted to take him water while he was onstage, and when she came back she had backstage passes. We went behind the stage and danced, and then they said we could go onstage during his last song. We didn't even care what we looked like, because we were just having a blast!"

Finally, Montgomery Gentry, the headliner of the show, took the stage. The duo was comprised of Ed Montgomery (the older brother of John Michael Montgomery) and Troy Gentry. In 1999, they won the American Country Music Top New Vocal Duet, followed by the Country Music Award Vocal Duo of the Year award in 2000.

"It was one of the best concerts I've been to, as far as how much fun I was having," said Kubicki. "We had floor seats, and we just sang and danced. It was great!"





[gac christmas]

story by stephanie harrington
photograph by caitlin dunnagan

Christmas came to Murray as early as Dec. 3 in 2006. Great American Country brought its Christmas tour, featuring Deana Carter, Julie Roberts, Steve Azar, Blue Country and Bucky Currington, to Lovett Auditorium.

Instead of the traditional concert set-up, the four soloists and the duet of Blue Country began the show by singing together. Between songs, the group talked about touring together and shared a few personal stories about Christmastime memories.

After talking together, each performer came to the stage to sing their favorite Christmas carols. During their last song, the next performer would enter the stage and the two would blend their performances. While unusual, it was an effective way to keep the show moving and the audience intrigued.

Although the audience was mostly comprised of community members, several students were in attendance.

Phillip Kiefner, a junior from Cape Girardeau, Mo., heard about the concert from a friend shortly before the performance, but was excited to attend.

Referring to Blue Country and Bucky Currington, Kiefner said, "It was cool to see such bright, young country stars here in Murray." As a fan of the show *American Idol*, Kiefner had a favorite performer. "Bucky Currington made it even better," he said.

Currington, the last-minute replacement for Buddy Jewel, was a crowd-pleaser, and danced around on stage during his performance.

"I really liked Bucky," said John Henry Russell, a junior from Moreland. "I would buy his CD if he ever signed with a company and produced a track. Other than that, the whole show was good."

[tracy lawrence]

story by stephanie harrington
photograph by caitlin dunnagan

Tracy Lawrence, a country singer with over a dozen No. 1 hits on the country charts, played in Lovett Auditorium for students and the community in conjunction with Froggy 103.7 and McKinney Insurance Services as a Relay for Life fundraiser March 28.

Lawrence was famous for such hits as: "Time Marches On," "Alibis" and "Paint Me a Birmingham." Many students and community members were thrilled with the chance to see the artist.

Lawrence simply sat on a stool and occasionally played guitar, and was flanked by two other musicians on stools. However, he captivated the audience with his voice and album-quality live show, as well as the spontaneous karaoke performance incorporating audience members.

"He got the audience really involved," said Kacie Lile, a junior from Louisville.

About halfway through his performance, after listening to the audience join him in all of his songs, Lawrence asked if anyone would be willing to join him and sing. Three brave volunteers took the stage in front of the packed crowd and attempted to sing. The first did not sing very long before the audience playfully, but seriously, booed him offstage. The second man was well-received, and the third sang well, but her nerves got the best of her. Lawrence was a good sport, and made sure to hug and talk to all three volunteers.

Lawrence even stuck around afterward and met waiting fans at his bus to sign a few more autographs and take a few pictures.

"It was very different from what I'm used to," Lile said. "I've never been to such a relaxed concert. But it was definitely fun!"





Members of the Spring 2007 graduating class await the awarding of their degrees. There were 80 students who graduated Summa Cum Laude (3.80-4.00 GPA), 111 Magna Cum Laude (3.60-3.79 GPA) and 154 Cum Laude (3.30-3.59 GPA).

[spring thousands attend commencement ceremonies at rsec graduation]

story by sarah hovekamp
photographs by paul holladay

Hundreds of excited students, parents, faculty, staff and Murray State President Randy Dunn gathered in the Regional Special Events Center on Saturday, May 12, to celebrate spring commencement.

The day started early for some, especially those who began arriving at the RSEC as early as 8 a.m. Over two hours later, the ceremony officially began as the graduates, followed by the faculty, began filing into the RSEC. There was also a special procession of the graduates of the class of 1957, who were celebrating their golden reunion.

Dr. Dunn opened the ceremony by praising Murray State and naming its numerous high rankings in magazines like *Kiplinger's* and *U.S. News and World Report*. He thanked all the parents for their hard work and commitment to their children's education, then congratulated the graduates by saying, "You are leaving Murray State as learned individuals. What you've gained here will be used to make the world a better place."

Dunn then recognized the Outstanding Senior Woman, Elizabeth Cawein, from Memphis, Tenn. Cawein was a member of the Honors Program and Omicron Delta Kappa. She was also editor in chief of the *Murray State News*. During her speech, Cawein told the graduates that they were capable of anything now that they had earned their college degrees.

"The world is a *Choose Your Own Adventure*

book, and there is nothing more exciting than that," Cawein said.

Jason Hinson, from Erin, Tenn., was recognized as the Outstanding Senior Man. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi and of the Student Government Association. In his speech, Hinson

drew parallels between his own life and the Robert Frost poem *Birches*. He ended by saying, "There will always be another birch tree to climb."

Following their speeches, Dr. Bonnie Higginson, Residential College Council Chair, invested the graduating students into their residential colleges. They then received their diplomas. The Alma Mater was sung and the ceremony was over.

But, for the graduates, it was only the beginning. For some, graduation meant continuing their education, while for others, it meant beginning a career. However, the general consensus was that all the graduates would cherish their time at Murray State.

When asked what he would miss most, Tim Engle, from Gilbertsville, simply said, "the people."

Engle, who graduated with a bachelor's of science in business degree with an area in business administration, planned to move to Nashville, Tenn., to begin working as a mortgage banker.

Regardless of what their future plans included, the spring 2007 Murray State graduates entered the world prepared to make a difference.

*"What you've
gained here will be
used to make the
world a better place."*

Outstanding Senior Woman Elizabeth Cawein, from Memphis, Tenn., speaks to the graduating class. Cawein graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree majoring in journalism and minor-ing in creative writing.



recruitment vs. rush
whitney shirley profile
national panhellenic council/alpha delta pi
alpha gamma delta/alpha omicron pi
alpha sigma alpha/sigma sigma sigma
ryan smithson profile
inter fraternity council/alpha gamma rho
alpha sigma phi/alpha tau omega
lambda chi alpha/phi kappa tau
pi kappa alpha/sigma chi
sigma phi epsilon/sigma pi
tyshawn clark profile
national pan-hellenic council/alpha kappa alpha
alpha phi alpha/delta sigma theta
iota phi theta/kappa alpha psi
omega psi phi/phi beta sigma
zeta phi beta/kappa sigma



photograph by leah wood

Members of Alpha Delta Pi pass pumpkin seeds down a relay line as part of Sigma Phi Epsilon's Scarecrow Smash philanthropy. The pumpkin smash relay was one of several activities held at the Nov. 4 event.

[greek life]

rush vs. recruitment

[students go greek through intricate process]



After bid acceptance, the new members of Alpha Omicron Pi celebrate in their sorority suite. To add to the excitement, all new members received a goodie bag and a panda bear, which was AOPi's mascot. photograph courtesy of cindy blalock

story by caitlin wardlow

Prior to beginning college, students received many different words of advice. Among the most popular were, "Get involved."

Students were told involvement looked great on resumes, built character, created friendships and, for the most part, was easy to do. One opportunity for involvement at Murray State was to "Go Greek," or join a fraternity or sorority.

During Great Beginnings, a four-day program that served as an orientation for freshmen and students new to Murray State's campus, many organizations set up booths in the Regional Special Events Center for students to browse. Students could ask members of each organization questions about what that particular group did, as well as how to join. For many organizations, membership was simple—show up at meetings, express desire to join, fill out a form, pay a fee (if there was one) and get involved.

Joining a fraternity or sorority, however, was not quite as simple.

According to the University's website, approximately 12 percent of students at Murray State belonged to a Greek organization. Murray State was home to five National Panhellenic Council sororities, 10 Interfraternity Council fraternities and seven National Pan-Hellenic Council fraternities and sororities. Each of the councils held its own events and offered different opportunities for students to join.

For NPC sororities, a formal recruitment was held the week before the fall semester began. Incoming freshmen and upperclassmen were invited to go through Recruitment, which consisted of visiting each sorority over the course of three days, narrowing down the options of which sorority to join each day.

Potential members reported to the Regional Special Events Center on the first day of Recruitment to learn detailed information on the week's events and to learn about each sorority.

The next day, potential members attended arranged events for four sororities of their choice. By the third and final day before bids were handed out, potential members had to eliminate one more sorority and attend formal events before ranking the sororities in order of preference on cards. These cards were then given to alumnae of the sororities to finish the process.

On Saturday, after the alumnae matched the potential members' cards with the sorority bids through an intricate process, potential members received their bids and were invited to attend post-recruitment activities.

Brittany Davis, a senior Alpha Gamma Delta member from Hopkinsville, said she liked how Recruitment was set up. "I like the fact that it is before school because we don't have to juggle too many things at once," she said. "We can enjoy the week and sisterhood."

For the IFC fraternities, a completely different process for membership was used. Generally, each fraternity held a "Rush Week" once a semester.

Adam Scott, a senior Alpha Sigma Phi member from Mayfield, said he liked Rush because it served as a structured process for joining a fraternity.

"Guys who are interested in getting out and joining a fraternity know what they are getting into by coming to Rush Week," he said.

During Rush Week, each fraternity held one event each night for men interested in rushing. Some examples of

these events included getting together and watching a movie, going bowling, having cookouts and hosting sports tournaments.

"We have an event called 'Dine with Brothers' that mixes with our 'What is Alpha Sigma Phi?' night," Scott said. "We cook dinner for the guys who are interested in joining our fraternity, and while they stay stationary, our brothers move from table to table throughout the meal. This gives us, as brothers, a chance to talk to these guys on a more personal level."

All the events allowed the men who were interested in fraternities to learn more about each group, and for the fraternity brothers to learn more about the potential members.

By the middle of Rush Week, the rushees narrowed their

choices of the fraternities they would like to join. At the end of the week, the fraternities narrowed their choices and began choosing the rushees to which they would like to extend a bid.

Bids were given out at the end of the week, usually on a Saturday, and in private, so each rushee could accept or reject his bid from the fraternity.

Each fraternity and sorority associated with the NPHC also held recruitment events called "intake activities." They had similar intake activities, but there were variances from organization to organization. Each one hosted informational meetings for potential members.

"New membership intake is a matter which each of the organizations under the NPHC umbrella are responsible for orchestrating on an individual basis depending on their fra-

ternity or sorority's national guidelines," Cowann Owens, a senior Alpha Phi Alpha member from Louisville, said.

"While it is not a requirement that anybody attend our programs or events in order to be considered for membership, if somebody does not participate before becoming a member, what's to say that they will after the fact," Owens said, "so generally those accepted into Alpha have had previous interaction with brothers before attending an 'awareness seminar.'"

Each organization held events throughout the year to invite potential members to meet those already a part of the fra-

ternities or sororities. However, the NPHC only advertised informational and interest sessions on campus during the fall semester.

Unlike fraternities and sororities that were part of the NPC and IFC, those in the NPHC did not extend membership invitations to freshmen. Despite this, students of all classifications were invited to attend NPHC-sponsored events.

While each of the three Greek governments on campus had its own way of recruiting new members, all had similar goals. All were looking for individuals to join in the brotherhood and sisterhood of fraternities and sororities.

Said Owens: "When I graduate from college, I won't say I was an Alpha in college, because I will always be a member of Alpha Phi Alpha."



Alpha Sigma Phi members Josh Jones, a senior from Memphis, Tenn., Steven Ivy, a sophomore from Owensville, Ind., Mason Carter, a sophomore from Marion and Jim Burch, a junior from St. Louis, Mo., play arcade games at Corvette Lanes. The men had a fun night of bowling, shooting pool and playing arcade games as part of their rush activities. photograph courtesy of jim burch



[whitney shirley]

Alpha Omicron Pi member Whitney Shirley stands on the steps of Pogue Library. Shirley served as philanthropic chair for the sorority, helping plan various events to benefit charities.

above and beyond

alpha omicron pi member excels in campus involvement

story by caitlin wardlow

photograph by caitlin dunnagan

Some students will tell you they want to attend college, take the classes, do the homework and just get out as soon as possible with a degree. It is not often that a college student will take the time to join an organization and put a great deal of effort into it. However, the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority at Murray State is not an organization that has a problem finding women to pour their hearts and souls into it.

Whitney Shirley, a junior from Clarksville, Tenn., pledged AOPi in the fall semester of 2005. Shirley said she waited until her sophomore year to join a sorority because she wanted to settle into college life before deciding if she wanted, or even had time, to join a sorority.

"My freshman year I could always notice an AOPi whether she was wearing letters or not," Shirley said. "They had certain characteristics that stood out that I now see in my sisters every day."

Shirley brought her own characteristics to the sorority when she was elected as Philanthropic Chair.

"I am in charge of putting on our two philanthropic events—Mr. MSU and Strike Out Arthritis," Shirley said. "The money raised from these events goes to the AOPi Foundation and arthritis research."

Cindy Blalock, one of Shirley's AOPi sisters, said Shirley also organized the sorority's 2006 Relay for Life team.

"Because of her hard work and dedication, AOPi raised the most money of any campus organization," Blalock said.

Shirley is also involved in other campus

organizations. She serves as an ambassador and a Student Government Association Senator for the school of agriculture, and is a member of the Hart College Honors Society and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Shirley has also participated in the Emerging Leaders and Leadership Murray State programs.

Blalock said Shirley, who has been a Dean's List student, is very dedicated to her education as well as her sorority and loves being involved. "She is always helpful and there is always a smile on her face," Blalock said.

Being a member of AOPi, Shirley said, has challenged her as well as helped her grow as a woman and an individual.

"I have developed qualities such as leadership skills, high personal standards and most importantly, I have developed lifelong friendships," she said.

Shirley plans to graduate in December 2007 with a degree in agriculture. She said she wants to make her time at college and with AOPi important, and according to Blalock, she has.

"Alpha Omicron Pi is very lucky to have such a wonderful person like her who cares about her education, sisters, friends and community," Blalock said.

Shirley is one of those rare college students who has been able to attend college, take the classes, do the homework and make a difference in an organization—a difference that has affected all the people around her.

[national panhellenic council]

story by kelsey quade

In 1902, many sororities across the nation recognized a need for standards regarding recruitment, pledging and other aspects of Greek life, according to npcwomen.com. This led one sorority, Alpha Phi, to invite eight other sororities to a conference in Chicago on May 24, 1902. This conference resulted in the creation of the first interfraternity association and the first intergroup organization on college campuses: the National Panhellenic Council.

During meetings, guidelines were set to prevent such events as women pledging before enrolling in college and belonging to more than one group. The NPC, as a conference, enacted no legislation except for the conduct of its own meetings and confined itself to recommendations and advice. It acted as a court of final appeal if a college panhellenic difficulty arose and provided area advisors for college panhellenics and alumnae panhellenics.

The NPC on Murray State's campus was responsible for public relations, scholarship, recruitment, community service and chapter development. National Panhellenic Council sororities at the University included Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Sigma Alpha and Sigma Sigma Sigma.

[alpha delta pi]



Member Roster: Allison Anders, Sherri Anderson, Joanie Balbach, Sarah Balbach, Christina Bartz, Lauren Bauer, Jessica Beaty, Abigail Bemiss, Rachel Blackburn, Carrie Bradley, Ashley Brandt, Candace Brasher, Kayla Breen, Laura Breen, Courtney Brundige, Elizabeth Cawein, Emily Christopher, Paulina Combaw, Kara Crawford, Andrea Denney, Rachel Deren, Jennie Dickerson, Megan Dodson, Hilary Edwards, Sara Evans, Lindsey Franklin, Sarah Furtkamp, Sara Gardner, Kori Geary, Christina Grabner, Laura Graham, Autumn Grammer, Sarah Greene, Amanda Harris, Kelly Harris, Nicole Hartman, Amanda Hemingway, Kristin Hendricks, Meagan Hensley, Elyse Hills, Mindy Hoffman, Katy Hume, Nichole Hunley, Whitney Hunter, Caitlyn Ikenberry, Elaina Janes, Christa Kustes, Elizabeth Lee, Cecilia Lowe, Allison Miller, Amanda Mize, Aminda Moore, Elizabeth Murray, Julie Musko, Pamela Myrick, Jenny Naes, Andrea Nall, Diane Nunn, Sierra Paddock, Hilary Pate, Brooke Phillips, Erica Richie, Whitney Robertson, Alice Rogers, Kelly Rottman, Kelsey Royals, Sarah Russell, Amanda Schraven, Hillarie Shields, Rachel Southerland, Hannah Speer, Shelley Stiles, Miranda Turner, Megan Waldrop, Samantha Walters, Allison Watkins, Crystal Willett, Sarah Willis, Leah Wood, Sarah Wunderlin, Vanessa Zepeda

story by rachel ruehling
 photograph by paul holladay

Alpha Delta Pi was established on campus on Feb. 10, 1968. It had 75 members in 2007, but being a small chapter did not limit them from being active and involved on campus.

Alpha Delta Pi's official philanthropy was the Ronald McDonald House, although it also participated in a number of community service projects. Its largest philanthropy event was the annual "Battle of the Bands," with all the proceeds from the event going to support the Ronald McDonald House in Albuquerque, N.M. Throughout the year members also collected can tabs and periodically visited the Ronald McDonald House in Nashville, Tenn., to cook dinner for the families who were staying there.

Alpha Delta Pi adopted the Ronald McDonald House Charities as its national philanthropy in 1979. The charities supported the 195 Ronald McDonald Houses that could be found in 16 countries worldwide. These houses served as a "home away from home" for families of seriously ill children receiving medical treatment at nearby hospitals. Ronald McDonald Houses depended almost entirely on donations, so the families of these children were able to stay there for as little as \$10 a night, or even for free, depending on the family's financial need. The houses were more than just a cheaper alternative to a hotel; they offered a relaxed setting, support, food and a close location to the hospital, along with all the comforts of home.

In 2003, Alpha Delta Pi adopted a Care Mobile, which offered medical care to families in urban areas that might not have access to this kind of care otherwise.

"Philanthropies are very important to ADPi because they believe that with the privilege of membership comes the responsibility to provide service to others and to reach out to the community," said Meagan Hensley, a junior from Frankfort who served as president of the sorority. "Alpha Delta Pi members believe it is important to be a part of a sorority with a philanthropy because serving others helps them to become better-rounded individuals."

[alpha gamma delta]



Member Roster: Molly Abell, Charissa Acree, Jaclyn Acree, Amber Anderson, Kerri Anderson, Katelin Arnold, Sarah Baker, Leah Barker, Erica Belt, Amanda Biller, Andrea Biller, Shannon Bishop, Stefanie Boer, Abbie Boswell, Jennifer Boyd, Abby Bradshaw, Morgan Burkeen, Blaire Bushart, Brienne Byrd, Karen Carr, Stephany Clark, Brandy Couleas, Brittany Davis, Mallory Dickerson, Stacy Edwards, Sarah Farmer, Anna Floyd, Whitney Fowler, Lauren Frizzell, Emily Gann, Jennifer Glass, LeeAnna Green, Jessica Grogan, Shelley Hicks, Lauren Hines, McKinzey Hodge, Ashley Hogancamp, Christy Jackson, Rachael Jaenichen, Casie Janet, Mary Van Jolly, Molly Jones, Ashley Kincaid, Kelsey Lamb, Alyssa Lanter, Rebekah Logan, Rachel Mann, Laura Manning, Kim Maziarka, Carrie McAliley, April McCroskey, Courtney McGinity, Lacey McGinnis, Kaitie McGregor, Amanda Melton, Amy Melvin, Rachel Meyer, Lindsay Miller, Lauren Moore, Janssen Morton, Erin Murphy, Jordan Myrick, Layton Noel, Carrie Ogle, Jackie Oswalt, Becky Paskievich, Kacie Rector, Hallie Rhodes, Rachel Romaine, Maddie Ryan, Kellye Smiley, Danielle Smith, Annie Snider, Erin Strader, Kristin Strebler, Bre Sykes, Maggie Tate, Holly Temple, Tiffany Waldrop, Lianne Weihe, Morgan Williams, Erin Williamson, Lauren Wilson, Dolly Wisman, Julie Wood, Valerie Yankoway

story by stephanie harrington
photograph by caitlin dunnagan

Since 1966, when the Gamma Xi chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta was founded at Murray State, the sorority has created a common ground for many university women. This year, the sorority provided a place for 90 of Murray State's women.

Alpha Gamma Delta hosted two major philanthropic events for the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation, which conducted research and provided education for juvenile diabetes. In the fall, the Alpha Gams hosted Rock-A-Thon, with fraternities competing against each other in penny wars, ribbon wars, a banner contest, a "Dude Looks Like A Lady" contest and dance routines.

In the spring, the ladies held the Alpha Gam Mind Jam, involving not only fraternities and sororities, but also others around the campus and community. Mind Jam was an interactive trivia night consisting of questions and relays with an overall winner in each of the competition's divisions.

The Gamma Xi chapter had a strong history of raising more money for the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation than any other chapter in the nation, which was something the girls were extremely proud of, said Carrie McAliley, a junior from Bowling Green who served as the sorority's president.

McAliley said she enjoyed the sense of Greek community everyone had during the philanthropic events. "Both of our philanthropies bring Murray State Greeks together," she said. "Also, the community is always welcome to participate and come to enjoy the events. Our chapter benefits from these events, giving us opportunities to work together and organize worthwhile activities, as well as bringing us closer together in sisterhood."

[alpha omicron pi]



Member Roster: Ashley Arnold, LeAndrea Bell, Brittany Blair, Cindy Blalock, Lauren Brown, Lysie Bunn, Whitney Bush, Jennifer Carter, Mallory Cathey, Kelly Champion, Heather Chapman, Sarah Clark, Chelsea Cleaver, Breanna Copeland, Melissa Crespo, Lane Davis, Linda Dinh, Brooke Dunbar, Kate Duncan, Hilary Fackler, Brooke Fugate, Brittany Garland, Taylor Gates, Jamie Gilkey, McKenzie Glass, Tracy Grapperhaus, Katie Graves, Annelise Grogan, Aimee Guelda, Toni Guthrie, Dani Harrison, Katie Heine, Angie Hiten, Erica Holt, Codie Hoot, Casey Humkey, Kari Humkey, Jackie Hunter, Paige Hurt, Zhandell Jackstadt, Jayme Kahne, Lyndsi Keel, Wendy Lauffenburger, Kara Mantooth, Cara McHugh, Meagan McManus, Abby Miller, Sarah Misbach, Calla Murdock, Kim Myatt, Alli Nance, Julie Nunnely, Kailin O'Nan, Whitney Overstreet, Jamie Peel, Katie Pride, Holly Pritchard, Martha Ray, Kate Reeves, Christa Reynolds, Rebecca Riggs, Erin Riley, Brittany Ross, Blair Rudesill, Kari Rudolph, Robyn Ryan, Whitney Shirley, Andrea Slaughter, Tiffany Snow, Jamie Storey, Katie Taylor, Virginia Taylor, Sanda Thomason, Chenin Treftz, Amanda Vaughn, Cathy Walker, Kristin Watson, McCall Webb, Donielle Wethington, Sarah Williams, Lauren Wilson, Ashley Yancy, Brittany Yancy

story by samantha gebert
photograph by caitlin dunnagan

In 1961, a sorority was established on Murray State's campus that had one primary goal—to help approximately 70 million Americans. Alpha Omicron Pi began with the intent of contributing to the Arthritis Foundation, which supported the 70 million Americans suffering from Arthritis. This year, with 90 members involved, the ladies of AOPi hosted two major fundraisers to support the foundation.

"Our contributions are helping the Foundation further research to prevent, treat and cure arthritis for the many affected," said Whitney Overstreet, a junior from Paducah who served as the sorority's president.

AOPi hosted the Mr. MSU pageant and the Strike Out Arthritis event. "Mr. MSU is our main fundraiser," Overstreet said. "It is held in the fall and basically is a male beauty pageant." Other students, Greek and community organizations nominated the males to participate in the pageant. The contestants were judged by their performances in the categories of interview, talent and formal attire.

Strike Out Arthritis, held every spring, was a bowling tournament at Corvette Lanes. "This philanthropy is extremely important to our sorority because we all know at least one person arthritis has affected," Mallory Cathey, a senior from Murray, said. "The more philanthropic events we can do to help raise money for the foundation will help individuals already affected by hopefully coming up with ways to minimize pain in the future."

Overstreet said she was glad AOPi chose to help the Arthritis Foundation. "To me, philanthropy should be something you think about every day," she said. "It is how you can make a difference in the world, and with 89 sisters, you can make a much bigger impact than by yourself."

[alpha sigma alpha]



Member Roster: Heather Allen, Amy Ashley, Jaclyn Bailey, Kellie Baldwin, Paige Barton, Amanda Bates, Lauren Bell, Catie Bondurant, Ashley Brasher, Julia Buckman, Fallan Butler, Natalie Cash, Laura Chambers, Bethany Clark, Dawn Cobb, Julie Conway, Lauren Cummins, Sara Jane Cunningham, Morgan Day, Erica Deweese, Krystina Eubanks, Meghan Frandsen, Whitney Franke, Kathryn French, Corinne Garrison, Megan George, Tristen Goodman, Brandy Grimes, Morgan Gross, Erin Hampton, Lacey Harris, Emily Hays, Jenne Hays, Lindsay Hays, Lauren Hohman, Adrienne Iberg, Crisann Ikenberry, Ellen Isaacson, Jennifer Jamison, Keri Jordan, Katie Just, Rachel Just, Meghan King, Cammon Knapp, Jona Kos, Kelly Kurzendoerfer, Phoebe Ladd, Amanda Laszewski, Alyssa Lewis, Emily Lewis, Jessica Lively, Erica Ludtke, Miranda Ludtke, Mary Moreland, Monica Morrison, Lindsay Peale, Sarah Peddie, Donna Phillips, Bethany Plummer, Aubrey Prest, Meagan Rogers, Holly Routledge, Brittany Saling, Monica Seibel, Katie Seibert, Megan Sommer, Amy Stallings, Holly Strong, Jenna Talmage, Jessica Thorpe, Sarah Treberg, Alex Vali, Erica Van Buren, Anna Vandiver, Courtney Veath, Caitlin Wardlow, Emily Westart, Sydney Wheatley, Megan Whitt, April Whitten, Sarah Willig, Whitney Wolberton, Charlsie Young, Jennifer Zolfagharbik

story by caitlin wardlow

photograph by kaia fox

Alpha Sigma Alpha was founded on Murray State's campus in 1946. With the Alpha Sigma motto "Aspire, Seek, Attain," its 88 members had a high regard for their philanthropies. Alpha Sigma's philanthropies were Toys for Tots, Special Olympics and the S. June Smith Center.

Special Olympics and the S. June Smith Center were Alpha Sigma's national philanthropies, which members of Alpha Sigma all over the country supported. Toys for Tots was a locally sponsored philanthropy that supported underprivileged children and their families.

Alpha Sigma supported Toys for Tots through their annual Dodgeball Tournament each fall. The money raised in the tournament was used to buy Christmas presents for 50 to 70 children in the area and to provide a Christmas dinner for the children and their families in December.

Cami Knapp, a junior from Flora, Ill., said Alpha Sigma was committed to making a difference in the community through Toys for Tots.

"This is a very rewarding experience for each sister individually as well as the chapter as a whole," Knapp said. "It definitely shows that the money we have raised and the time we have put forth is put to good use."

In the spring, Alpha Sigma had its annual Teeter for Tots event in which all the members teetered on a teeter-totter for 24 hours in the Quad to raise awareness of Toys for Tots. During Teeter for Tots, the Alpha Sigmas hosted Picnic Lane, where barbecue sandwiches with chips and drinks were sold to raise money for the Special Olympics.

Said Knapp: "Even though I may not see first hand the impact we are having in all of our philanthropies, I know that the money we raise makes the difference in so many individuals' lives."

[sigma sigma sigma]



Member Roster: Kellen Allen, Angela Arnold, Katie Arnzen, Michelle Banks, Sara Jane Behl, Meg Black, Ashley Boyd, Taylor Buckingham, Bethany Burba, Sara Burdoine, Cassie Burgin, Dannie Cain, Heather Carby, Ali Christ, Christie Clatterbuck, MacKenzie Cook, Amanda Coop, Sarah Cox, Lauren Daniel, Julie Eschbach, Ashley Farmer, Michelle Farthing, Amber Fay, Tiffany Fay, Kelli Fitzpatrick, Cecielia Gerard, Cortney Goebel, Randa Gozum, Erica Grass, Jessi Hamilton, Lindsey Hanvey, Marley Hardin, Lauren Harms, Hillary Harris, Ashley Hartman, Amber Higgins, Paige Hodum, Jackie Hope, Ashley Hornbrook, Megan Huddelson, Whitney Hunt, Kelsey Jones, Michelle Jones, Lizzie Liddell, Erin Lincoln, Stefanie Long, Shannon Lynn, Kelly Martin, Maggie Mastrolia, Tiffany Melton, Bailey Murphy, Liz Oldenburg, Trina Patton, Carlee Peterworth, Chelsie Petrowske, Amanda Pittman, Allison Powers, Shandi Puckett, Meaghan Quinn, Amber Ray, Jessica Renfro, Jessica Richards, Jodi Rickert, Chelsea Riggins, Kayla Riley, Nikki Roediger, Mary Kim Schaltenbrand, Emily Scott, Maggie Shupe, Mandie Sidener, Kristen Simmonds, Paula Singer, Jamie Stewart, Bethney Terry, Katy Weber, Ashley Wild, Sara Willett, Megan Wrobel, Alissa Zimmerman, Alyse Zinzileta

story by sarah baker

photograph by caitlin dunnagan

Sigma Sigma Sigma was established on campus in 1942 and had a membership of 83 in 2007. The sorority house was located at 1605 Miller St.

The sorority's main goals were to promote a bond of friendship, to develop strong womanly character and to inspire high standards of ethical conduct, according to their national website.

This year, the sorority's philanthropy benefited the Sigma Sigma Sigma Foundation, in honor of past advisor Jan Wilson. Two major fundraisers the sorority hosted for this philanthropy were the Ultimate Frisbee Tournament and the Ms. Jan Wilson Memorial 5K Run/Walk.

"The frisbee tournament was important because everyone on campus could come together to have fun and support the philanthropy," said Tri Sigma president Lauren Harms, a senior from Belleville, Ill. Harms also said the memorial run/walk was important because it brought many people from the community and campus together to raise money for a good cause.

not just a fraternity

sigma phi epsilon member gains more than camaraderie

story by caitlin wardlow
photograph by caitlin dunnagan

Fraternities are often the subject of stereotyping, tormenting, and college movies. Luckily, the fraternities at Murray State and their members have yet to be the site of a major motion picture and maintain fine reputations. Sigma Phi Epsilon is no exception, and one of its members, Ryan Smithson, works hard to make sure it stays that way.

Smithson, a sophomore from Hopkinsville, joined Sig Ep in the fall of 2005. He noticed right away that Sig Ep was different to him from the other fraternities and said he felt a really close connection with all the members.

"I saw that Sig Ep was a dominant force on campus," Smithson said. "It's an organization filled with very diverse men who expand their credentials all across campus."

Smithson has been noticed on campus as well. "He has style in everything he does," said fellow fraternity brother and friend Ronnie Walls, a senior from Marion, Ill.

To coincide with his major in public relations, Smithson held the office of Vice President of Recruitment for Sig Ep. This position required him to plan all the fraternity's activities during rush week. Serving his fraternity in this capacity gave him beneficial experience for his future.

Holding office in Sig Ep also gave Smithson the opportunity to have many other leadership positions. "It has given me many leadership roles and ways to expand my people skills," he said.

In addition to being in Sig Ep, Smithson also served as a First Year Leader for Hart College and was a member of the Sigma Alpha Lambda honor society.

Smithson's hard work did not go unnoticed. "He's a driven guy who works just as hard as he plays," Walls said.

With Sig Ep being the largest national fraternity, Smithson knew right away there would be many different types of people he would encounter while in college.

"[Sig Ep] has taught me to be less stereotypical and has made me deal with kinds of people I would not have originally associated with," Smithson said.

Smithson said being a member of Sig Ep has helped him become a better man. He worked hard in school, was active on campus and valued his friendships.

Reed Clapp, a sophomore from Fancy Farm, said he could also tell Smithson put a great amount of effort into everything he did. "He's sometimes stressful, but always interesting," Clapp said.

With his hard work in school, high level of involvement on campus and valuable friendships, Smithson said he truly enjoyed being a member of Sig Ep.

"Ryan has been an awesome friend," Walls said. "He's always there when I need him."



Enjoying the nice weather, Ryan Smithson rests in the Quad. Smithson stayed busy because of his large amount of involvement on campus.

[ryan smithson]

[inter fraternity council]

story by leah wood

Greek organizations nationwide had a long history of making news headlines for a number of unfortunate events. In recent years, colleges and universities decided to set up governing bodies to oversee policy and behavior for all existing fraternities. The Inter Fraternity Council on campus sought to do just that—regulate behavior, spending and fraternity involvement to make a safer and smarter Greek environment.

The Inter Fraternity Council, more commonly known as the IFC, was formed early in the 20th century. Twenty-six fraternities met in November 1909 to discuss critical issues they were facing, according to Murray State's website. The governing body that formed post-1909 became known as the National Inter Fraternity Conference. The IFC at Murray was the representative body recognized by the NIC.

Purposed with representing fraternal interests, the IFC was responsible for community service, public relations, rush, scholarship and chapter development.

Fraternities governed by the IFC included Alpha Gamma Rho, Alpha Sigma Phi, Alpha Tau Omega, Kappa Sigma, Lambda Chi Alpha, Phi Kappa Tau, Pi Kappa Alpha, Sigma Chi, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Sigma Pi.

The IFC continued to receive mixed reviews. "I think it's an organization with good intentions but their execution often falls short of expectations," Adam Moore, a senior member of Alpha Sigma Phi from Frankfort, said.

Paul Holladay, a junior member of Sigma Phi Epsilon from Louisville, agreed. "Although the IFC has a few kinks to work through, overall it is a good institution that promotes Greek unity and facilitates the betterment of Greeks on campus," he said.

[alpha gamma rho]



Member Roster: Robert Alexander, Harrison Blankenship, Dustin Blue, William Brummett, Ryan Buckhorn, Kenneth Burgess, Steven Cauley, Jeremy Davis, Christopher Day, Jacob Dowdy, Joshua Drone, Robert Ferguson, James Ford, Luke Frank, Anthony Girtten, Jason Hale, Steffan Hart, Bryn Hightower, Joshua Hindman, Jonathan Johns, David Keatts, Jesse Little, Justin Mason, Daniel McGarity, Steven Miller, Franklin Mitchell, Kenneth Moorhead, Joel Perkins, Austin Pruitt, Samuel Rogers, Jonathan Skinner, Logan Spalding, Derek Stegemoller, Benjamin Taylor, Christopher Tippet, Dane Weaver, Patrick Willis

story by rachel ruehling
photograph by caitlin dunnagan

The brothers of Alpha Gamma Rho had a strong bond within their circle, and they honored the fact that AGR was a social and professional fraternity.

Alpha Gamma Rho was established on campus in 1959. The fraternity was the very first on campus to rent and manage their own house. The AGR chapter had 35 members, all with similar interests in any career involving food, fiber and life science industries.

AGR's philanthropy was Helping Hand. This was a community-based project that gave back to those in the community who needed help, such as senior citizens and single parents.

"It's very important that the community gives to AGR and that we can give back," Joel Perkins, a senior from Chatham, Ill., said. "The resources we get are great. I believe that if you have the ability and the resources you should give to those in need and to those who have helped you."

AGR participated around campus in their annual tractor pull, which raised money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. They also participated in the Step Off hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha to raise money for the March of Dimes.

AGR made its own history on campus and was sure to do so for years to come.

[alpha sigma phi]



Member Roster: Michael Ahart, Chris Asher, Mark Ashley, Nick Bagby, Cory Balthrop, Josh Bauer, Matt Bauer, Stuart Berberich, Nathan Bishop, Matt Bledsoe, David Borum, Michael Brinkman, Chris Bruce, Jim Burch, Aaron Carrico, Mason Carter, Alan Cobourn, Nathan Cruse, Wes Cullen, Wesley Deer, Nicholas Dempsey, Justin Denham, Evan Espey, Jaime Fairbanks, David Fairless, Adam Farmer, Adam Forsythe, Clint Fugate, Andrew Grassman, Tyler Harned, Ryan Hayden, Allan Hendricks, Jason Hinson, Andrew Hursey, Eric Icenogle, John Jefferson, Steven Ivy, John Jenkins, Josh Jones, Joseph Lamb, Leonard Matlock, Alex Merideth, Adam Moore, Blake Morgan, Adam Murphy, Jonathan Oliver, Nick Pate, Craig Patton, Tyler Powell, Adam Prescott, Filipe Proenca, Brett Reddick, Darrick Pinkston, Chris Powell, Ian Renfrow, James Rhodes, Derek Rister, Nathan Roberson, Brian Robertson, Stephen Saia, James Simpson, Kyle Sindle, Adam Scott, Nathan Smith, Jayson Spain, Jarrod Staggs, Benjamin Stinnett, Chris Thone, Jacob Townsend, Jesse Townsend, Stephen Turner, Kyle Van Fleet, Adam Vanhooser, Michael Vanhooser, Todd Walker, Rustin Webster, Brent Wilcox, Daniel Williams

story by caitlin wardlow
 photograph by caitlin dunnagan

With 85 members, the Delta Tau chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity was one of the largest on campus. Its house was located on 16th Street, near Five-Points. While none of the members actually lived there, it provided a place for them to gather.

Since its establishment on Murray State's campus in 1994, Alpha Sigma Phi was involved in two major philanthropies: Habitat for Humanity and Canine Companions for Independence.

"These philanthropies give us a chance to help those less fortunate than us," said Derek Rister, a senior from Harrisburg, Ill., and a member of Alpha Sigma Phi. "All proceeds from our fundraisers go to CCI and Habitat."

Rister said Alpha Sigma Phi sent groups of brothers to help with Habitat for Humanity and Adopt-A-Highway.

"The philanthropies are special to me because they show that there are still people out there who care about their community," Rister said. "When 85 men take two or three hours out of their schedules just to help out with raising money, cleaning streets or rebuilding houses, it shows commitment and willingness to make life a little better for others."

Rister said that being in a fraternity changed his outlook on fraternities in general. He said he used to see fraternities as "drunken raves" but after joining Alpha Sigma Phi, he said he learned the true meaning of brotherhood, leadership and communication skills that will help him in his future.

[alpha tau omega]



Member Roster: James Akin, Shadrach Boaz, Travis Bradley, Lee Brinkley, Justin Butts, Joshua Cain, Ryan Chandler, Nathan Davis, Michael Farrell, Justin France, Nathaniel Garrett, Matthew Gingles, Tyler Green, Brent Harland, Jeremy Harper, Parker House, Brent Jeffries, Mark Johnson, Taylor Johnson, Joshua King, Cody Lane, Nathan Laws, Jeffrey Lester, Michael McCuiston, Jesse Miller, Nathan Morgan, Jared Murphy, Thomas Myers, Ryan Nall, John Newsome, Jimmy Owens, Brian Pack, Christopher Parker, Matthew Phillips, Evan Roberts, Shannon Rule, Jamison Standard, Kyle Stark, Skyler Wade, Richard Wiggins

story by rachel ruchling

photograph by caitlin dunnagan

Alpha Tau Omega, which has been on campus since 1959, had 40 members in 2007.

ATO's philanthropy of choice was its annual "FrogHop" which benefited United Way. Sororities competed in the frog hop, water balloon bullseye and a relay obstacle race.

"Philanthropies help us to give back to the community while coming together in brotherhood and having a great time," Tyler Newman, a freshman from Newburgh, Ind., said. "It's important to show that we're just not all about partying, but we like to spend our time giving to others."

The men of ATO were very passionate about their fraternity and enjoyed giving back to the community every year.

"It's the best decision I have ever made and have never regretted," Matt Gingles, a senior from Murray, said. "ATO has changed my life by showing me what I am able to accomplish."

Newman agreed. "It's more or less the best decision I've ever made in my life," he said. "I've made more friends here than I could ever ask for and that makes college life so much better."

[lambda chi alpha]



Member Roster: Jordan Arndell, Pierce Arnold, Seth Barrow, Philip Berardi, Ross Callahan, Curry Cates, Jeremy Collins, Michael Dennis, Brandon Elkins, Nicholas Hall, Tristan Holmes, Ryan Houston, Gregory Humkey, Jonathon Klotz, Nicholas Knapp, Sean Knipp, Benjamin Lemond, Jacob Lyon, Michael Moss, Scott Myers, Craig Nunnelley, Johnathan Parsons, Nicholas Pullen, Bobby Potts, Bradley Rideout, Joe Saddoris, Dustin Sheffield, John Shinn, Ryan Siebers, James Skinner, Jonathan Tabor, Mitchell Thomas, Trey Vincent, Marshall Welch, Michael Wentz

story by samantha gebert
photograph by marshall welch

The Lambda Eta chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha was established on Murray State's campus on May 18, 1968, with standards requiring each member to give back to their community.

"We're a fraternity based on Christian principles and, on top of that, a service organization," said chapter president Marshall Welch, a senior from Murray. "These values require us as Lambda Chi's to give back to our communities."

Over 1,200 members have been initiated in the 39 years Lambda Chi has been on campus. The fraternity had 30 active members this year, with each participating in the annual North American Food Drive. Since the philanthropy began in 1993, Lambda Chi has raised more than 24.6 million pounds of food for needy families around the nation. This helped Lambda Chi achieve the honor of being the first fraternity to receive the American Society of Association Executives' Summit Award.

Trey Vincent, a junior from Benton, joined the fraternity his freshman year. "I wanted to help these people in need that might not be able to receive that support from anywhere else," Vincent said. "We spend a major part of our time trying to improve our community, and I think that the North American Food Drive is a very significant way we portray that commitment."

The food drive was held every fall semester to raise non-perishable foods and items for Needline.

"To me, it's always important to make as big of a positive impact as possible in everything that you do," Welch said. "We strongly believe in lending a helping hand whenever we can and that means a lot to me."

[phi kappa tau]



Member Roster: Andrew Beyke, Jonathon Blackman, Jacob Clinard, Clinon Cobb, Matt Dennis, Ross Farmer, Robert Goedke, Jeremy Haysley, Caleb Higginbottom, Drew Holland, Andrew Kaelin, Brandon Langston, Jason Murphy, Christopher Nuttle, Steven Purcell, Jesse Reeves, Lucian Rogers, David Shaw, James Tapp, Kaleb Tapp, Marshall Toy, Adam Watson, Jordan Wexler, Ryan Youngblood

story by caitlin wardlow
photograph by april mckee

The Delta Pi chapter of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity was home to 27 active members and seven associate members. Phi Tau had the second highest grade point average on Murray State's campus and was one of the fastest growing fraternities nationally.

Phi Kappa Tau was founded at Murray State in 1982 and had one philanthropy called Hole in the Wall Camps, which was begun by Paul Newman, who was also a Phi Tau, in 1988.

The camps extended throughout the world with the purpose of spreading hope and fun to kids who had terminal illnesses such as AIDS or cancer, said Jacob Clinard, a junior Phi Tau member from Louisville.

"These camps are important to us because they provide opportunities for members of our fraternity to make a difference in kids' lives," Clinard said. "Every year we send at least one member of our fraternity to work all summer at Boggy Creek (one of the Hole in the Wall camps), while many other brothers volunteer at other camps nationally."

Clinard said this philanthropy touched him personally.

"One of my family members who was relatively young suffered from cancer, and I could just imagine how much joy he would have gotten in being able to participate in one of these camps," Clinard said. "This philanthropy is important to me because I have always believed the best cure to any disease is laughter. To volunteer at one of these camps touches people in ways they will never forget."

Clinard said being in a fraternity changed him into the man he envisioned he would be when he was a freshman. He said it also changed the way he regarded friendships.

Said Clinard: "I didn't know what true friendship and brotherhood really was until I joined [Phi Tau]."

[pi kappa alpha]



Member Roster: Charles Bagby, Hunter Beyer, Jan Black, Robert Boh, Shaun Borchert, Clinton Borm, Blake Bradley, Stuart Brasher, Tyler Brockman, Michael Brown, Tyler Buckingham, Lonnie Burgett, Justin Burkeen, Gregory Cain, Christopher Champion, Travis Corder, Gary Crass, Mark Daniel, Kyle Denton, Cody Doores, Douglas Drum, Christopher Drummond, Brian Edwards, Austin Elliott, Kent Erwin, Kyle Erwin, Patrick Fallon, Hugh Falwell, Ryan Fowler, Brandon Fondaw, Lewis Glasco, Jeremy Grimmitt, Jerry Harp, Patrick Hayden, Troy Hollowell, Stephen Hopkins, Zachary Howze, Kyle Humphrey, Robert Irwin, Joe Jackson, Jacob Jeansonne, Zachary Knight, Cody Krech, Adrian Lattus, Troy Lewis, Trey Lindell, Jacob McKinnis, Bryan Murdock, Ryan Noland, Glenn Otey, William Rice, Tyler Riordan, Hugh Rollins, Scott Sanders, Tyler Simmons, Ross Smith, David Solomon, James Taylor, Joshua Taylor, Zachary Taylor, Kirill Toropchyn, Cody Wiles

story by rachel ruehling
photograph by paul holladay

Pi Kappa Alpha was founded on campus in 1958. In 2007, there were 63 members in the local chapter with more than 1500 alumni. The Pikes, as the fraternity members were commonly called, resided in a chapter house on 16th Street.

The philanthropy the Pikes worked closely with benefited juvenile diabetes.

"We have had many alumni and family of our brothers who have suffered from juvenile diabetes and we try to do our part to help," said fraternity president Kyle Erwin, a junior from Murray. "With a philanthropy, you are able to give help to those in need. It gives you a sense of meaning and importance for the community--the service and time that you are putting in."

The fraternity completed many community service projects, including refining Upward Basketball, a national Christian basketball league promoting good sportsmanship, faith and fun. The fraternity refereed for the project at First United Methodist Church in Murray.

Pikes also assisted at Calloway County Hospital once a month by helping to clean, and worked toward raising \$3,000 for Relay for Life.

[sigma chi]



Member Roster: Matthew Angel, Nicholas Bremer, Russell Brooks, Robert Brown, Christopher Chandler, John Denver, Mark Dobson, Adam Duley, Paul Elfen, Kevin Farrell, John Findley, Ryan Gasaway, Tyler Geib, Austin Goodwin, Robert Hawkins, Andrew Healy, Joshua Johnson, Matthew Johnston, Christian Klass, Mitchell Kuetter, Graham Koossalo, Jacob Lee, Reese Martin, Daniel Mathis, Kristopher Mauck, Daren Meadows, Bray Melson, Evan Miller, Alexander Morris, Blaine Nichols, Michael Perkins, Adam Perry, Seth Perry, Tillen Perry, Jared Renner, Patrick Roche, Ryan Rohleder, Daniel Rouse, Jordan Savage, Andy Scott, Richard Scott, Aaron Slager, Douglas Spalding, Douglas Story, Nicholas Tompkins, Joshua Ussery, Cory Walker, Bobby Wall, Jack Wipfler, James Wilbanks

story by caitlin wardlow

photograph by kaia fox

Known by many for their work putting together a haunted house each October for the community, the Epsilon Tau chapter of Sigma Chi fraternity had about 45 active members. Some of those members lived in the Sigma Chi house, located at the corner of Hughes and 14th streets, while others lived in the residential colleges and in houses or apartments around Murray.

Sigma Chi had been active in the community with its different philanthropies since it was founded on campus in 1959. The fraternity's philanthropies were St. Jude's Children's Hospital, the Children's Miracle Network and the Huntsmann Cancer Foundation. Each school year, Sigma Chi held events to help raise money for these philanthropies.

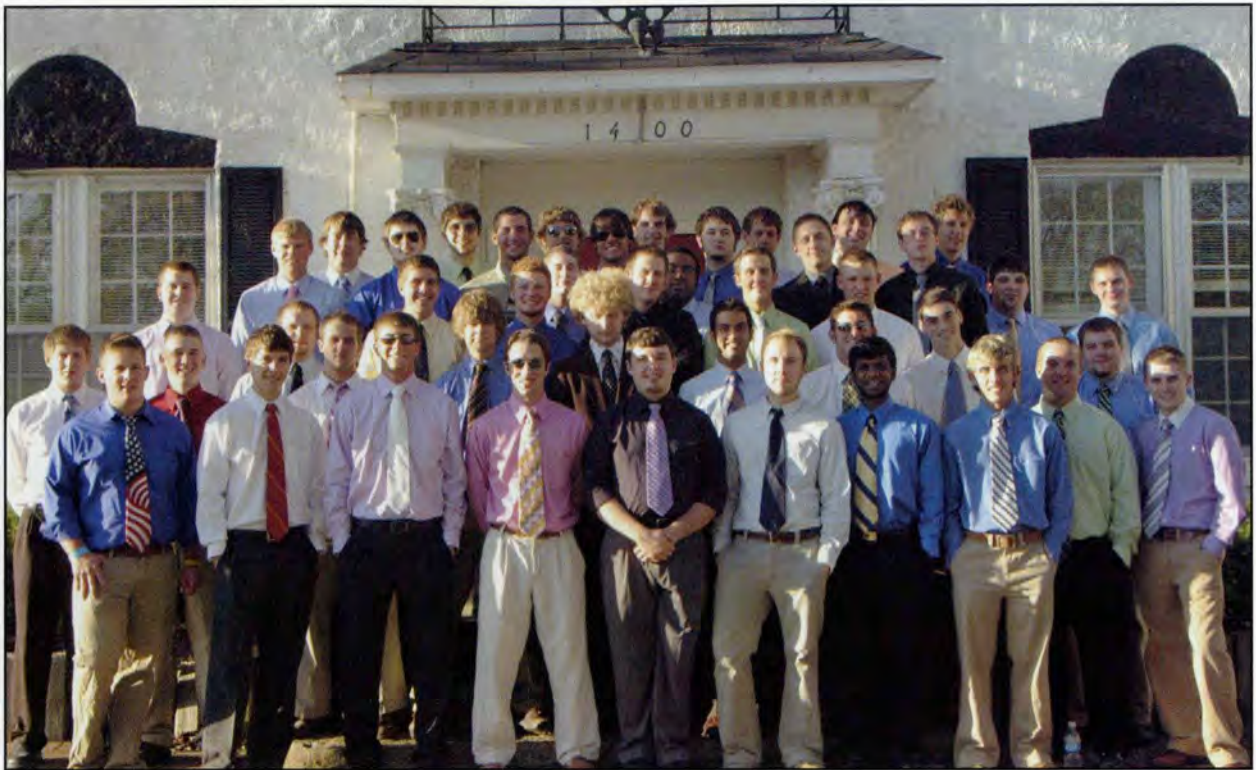
Jordan Savage, a sophomore from Grover, Mo., explained how each event benefitted the fraternity's philanthropies.

"We have Derby Days, which raises money for St. Jude's; the haunted house, which raises money for the Huntsmann Cancer Foundation; and other events on campus like dunking booths and car smashes, which benefit the Children's Miracle Network," Savage said.

Derby Days took place in the spring and allowed sororities to compete against each other through various field day-like activities. The haunted house was an annual event in which all the members of Sigma Chi spent days turning their fraternity house into a scary one. Students and members of the community purchased tickets to go through the haunted house around Halloween each fall.

"These philanthropies are important to Sigma Chi because they help to raise awareness of the charities that we raise money for," Savage said. "It helps spread the word in a positive way. It also helps bring together all different types of people because everyone is working toward that common goal of raising as much money as possible."

[sigma phi epsilon]



Member Roster: Chris Allen, Ben Amberg, Brent Bauscher, Ryan Bellendir, Joe Berghause, Al Birner, Derrick Bradshaw, Reed Clapp, Clayton Clark, Ace Cloninger, Austin Cohoon, Justin Crice, Matt Dahm, Wes Edwards, Houston Ellis, Zac Elmore, Chris Fox, Joshua Franklin, Jake Hagen, David Hardin, TJ Hargrove, Mikel Headford, Kyle Hodson, Paul Holladay, Zach Hudson, Scott Huller, Mitch Hultman, Billy Jackson, Wesley Juenger, Nicholas Ksiezopolski, Devin Lancaster, Andrew Meade, Jon Mitchell, Brad Mollman, Scott Moves, Chris Muncie, Derek Nance, Bryan Nixon, Dave Normansell, Danny Oliver, Seth Owen, Tyler Petty, Cole Phelps, Jess Rainer, Jonathan Raj, Alexander Roberts, Jacob Saylor, Josh Saylor, Ryan Schuler, Joe Shane, Dustin Smith, Taylor Smith, Zac Smith, Ryan Smithson, Joe Spinks, Jordan Turner, Ronnie Walls, Aaron Warren, James Washburn, Michael Watson, Brett Welter, Ryan Williams, Austin Wyatt

story by ben amberg
photograph by caitlin dunnagan

The Murray State chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon opened its doors for its first formal meeting on May 18, 1969, on the premise that it would be a different kind of fraternity.

Virtue, diligence and brotherly love were the cardinal principles the founders believed would set them apart from members of other fraternities.

"When I was a freshman, I had an *Animal House* stereotype of the Greek system," said Scott Moyes, a senior from Henderson who served as president of Sig Ep. "It was Sig Ep's quest for excellence in the classroom, on campus and in the community that changed my opinion."

The members of Sigma Phi Epsilon prided themselves on striving for greatness in every aspect of their academic endeavors. Sig Ep members had the highest grade point average among fraternities during the previous eight semesters. Its most recent average was a 3.21.

"I am very proud of being part of an organization that has such a reputation for excellence," Ronnie Walls, a senior from Marion, Ill., said. "Not only do we achieve our goals semester after semester, but we are consistently raising the bar for ourselves. That's how a fraternity should be."

Sig Ep also boasted the honor of receiving the prestigious President's Cup for academics for the past three years. This honor was awarded each year to the fraternity that had excelled academically more than any of the other fraternities.

The development of leadership in its members was a goal close to the spirit of Sig Ep. Its members held many leadership positions on the campus of Murray State, including six Student Government positions; one Summer Orientation position and one Inter Fraternity Council position.

[sigma pi]



Member Roster: Michael Barnes, Jonathan Baskin, Alex Blonder, Brad Boykin, Scott Carlson, Kent Clouse, Sean Conner, Austin Conrad, Baker Davie, Steven Franklin, Jarrod Heltsley, Thomas Krones, Mark Mallory, Aaron McGee, Tommy Moore, Michael Perkins, Lorne Stanfa, Belue Sturgill, Kyle Tanner, Andy Young

story by sarah baker

photograph by paul holladay

Sigma Pi was established on campus on May 4, 1968, and had sixteen active members and seven pledges in 2007. The fraternity house was located at 1105 State Route 121 N.

The fraternity's philanthropy was the Samantha Spady Foundation. This foundation helped with alcohol awareness for teenagers and college students. Samantha Spady was a student at Colorado State University who died because of alcohol poisoning.

Chapter president Mark Mallory said it was very important for Sigma Pi to support philanthropies. "Philanthropies show the true meaning of what fraternities are about—groups of men with characteristics that out shine the average person," he said.

Some benefits of membership in Sigma Pi included: "lifelong friends, regional conferences and biennial convocation, networking through internships and alumni contacts, scholarships and student loans and leadership and service opportunities," according to the fraternity's national website.

stepping it up

kappa alpha psi member provides leadership on campus

story by caitlin wardlow

photograph by caitlin dunnagan

You saw them on campus all the time—the students who were involved in what seemed like everything. You assumed most of them were just trying to spruce up their resumes and were entirely too busy to stop and say hello. But that was not the case with Tyshawn Clark, a junior graphic design major from Buffalo, N.Y. He had some kind of responsibility in nearly everything he was involved in, and never missed an opportunity to flash a smile and say hello.

Among the many organizations Clark was involved in was Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., of which he has been a member since the spring of 2006.

Clark said he knew there were a number of ways he could get involved on campus when he decided to attend Murray State, including several fraternities he could join. However, he said he chose Kappa Alpha Psi because of the characteristics the organization was founded upon, as well as its motto: "Achievement in every field of human endeavor."

As a member of the fraternity, Clark held the office of Guide Right Chair.

"My main responsibilities are to create and establish programs for our youth," he said.

Among the programs Clark established was one called *Stepping With Kappas*. Members of Kappa Alpha Psi traveled to Calloway County Middle School to serve as role models and mentors to students. The program gave them a way to have fun with students as well as teach them some of their famous stepping moves.

Not only did being a member of the fraternity give Clark ways to reach out to the community, it also helped him with his future.

"Being in Kappa Alpha Psi has created a system of networking which can be used in the business aspect of my life," Clark said. "I have networks from CEOs to managers."

Because of the connections he made in the business community through the fraternity, Clark said he already had been given two job opportunities to consider.

Randa Gozum, a junior from Jackson, Tenn., met Clark at a leadership workshop last year. "Every time I see him, he just seems so put together and of course is always running to some meeting," she said.

Among the other campus organizations Clark was involved in was the Black Student Council. As president of the council, he founded the Love and Basketball Tournament, an event he hoped would become an annual tradition. Clark also began a Black Student Council Coronation, which will also be an annual event.

"His involvement with the Black Student Council and other activities just shows how dedicated and successful he is," Gozum said. "He is definitely a good role model for anyone looking to get involved on campus."

As vice president of Franklin Residential College Council, Greek Unity Chair of the National Pan Hellenic Council at Murray State, director of the Vital Dance Team and member of a number of other organizations, Clark proved the significance of involvement on campus while attending college.

Clark said his involvement at Murray State and all the organizations he was a member of were not merely meant to be padding for his resume. He also said being a member of Kappa Alpha Psi was more than being a member of a fraternity.

"It's more than just stepping, wearing letters, and chanting," Clark said. "It's a lifetime bond of brotherhood and a support system."

Cara McHugh, a junior from Memphis, Tenn., was friends with Clark and said she got to know him better when they both became Summer Orientation Counselors.

"He stands out because he is a bold leader but presents himself in a respectful, mature and calm manner that makes others want to diligently follow him," McHugh said. "He is always willing to listen, help and advise anyone and has a very passionate and fun attitude about life."



Tyshawn Clark, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, takes a break at the Curris Center. Clark served as Guide Right Chair for the fraternity and as president of the Black Student Council.

[tyshawn clark]

[kappa sigma]



Member Roster: Scott Adair, Taft Adams, Christopher Addison, Gregory Anderson, Jeffrey Baker, Thomas Baker, William Baker, Austin Beck, Morgan Bender, Landon Brewer, Justin Campbell, Andrew Casey, Robert Castleberry, Nathan Chapman, Joshua Choate, Lucas Choate, Brian Flow-ers, Jonathan Gibson, Marc Goetz, John Gorrell, Tobias Hafer, Jacob Haley, Michael Harris, Dustin Henderson, Cody Holland, Matthew Hunt, Eric King, Brian Ladd, Tyler Larson, Reece Mabry, Bobby Maglaughlin, Derek Manley, Grant Mathis, Travis Mathis, Daniel Maze, Michael McGregor, Jerad Millay, Brandon Moberly, Ryan Moore, Christopher Moyer, Will Pinkston, Jarrod Rudesill, Jordon Rudesill, Steven Sanders, Mackenzie Sipes, Travis Twilbeck, Brian York, Christopher Young

story by caitlin wardlow
photograph by caitlin dunnagan

Kappa Sigma at Murray State first began as a colony on campus in the fall of 2004. Each semester, it changed the way it operated and lost and gained people interested in it, Nathan Chapman, a junior from Dyersburg, Tenn., said.

"It was a hard time for us because we didn't know if we were ever going to get our charter," Chapman said. "Kappa Sigma is the hardest fraternity to get started. You must have 50 people to even try to get national's permission." But the members did not give up.

"We actively participated in all of the philanthropies that we knew about," Chapman said. "We enjoyed trying to help out fraternities and sororities and show them that we do care and wanted to help if they would allow us."

The persistence of the members paid off two and a half years later when Kappa Sigma received their charter. On December 2, 2006, it became an official fraternity recognized by the Interfraternity Council on campus.

The fraternity's 51 members actively participated in their philanthropy, which was Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

"If there is someone that I can help, either in a simple way such as giving money or my time, I will drop everything if they need me," Chapman said. "I like to try and make a difference in other people's lives because I have the best parents that I could have and want to help."

Chapman said Kappa Sigma receiving its charter was a big relief to him. "I was scared since I was rushing for so long," he said. "I almost wanted to give up but my brothers did not let me down and we strived and pushed on and we achieved our goal."

Kappa Sigma already started planning ways in which it could be a positive influence on campus. "Right now, only 12 percent of Murray State's campus is Greek," Chapman said. "With us joining the other fraternities on campus, we will add to that percent. Numbers don't matter but one thing we are as Kappa Sigmas is gentlemen. The Greek system keeps getting weaker and weaker each year and hopefully with us joining the IFC, we will be able to spark some inspiration throughout Murray State."

[national pan-hellenic council]

story by sarah hovekamp

Founded in 1930, the National Pan-Hellenic Council helped give African-American college students the same opportunities as other college students. It began at Howard University in Washington D.C., and has since spread to hundreds of universities around the country.

The NPHC had seven fraternities and sororities under its domain at Murray State, including Alpha Phi Alpha, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Iota Phi Theta, Kappa Alpha Psi, Phi Beta Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta.

Since NPHC organizations were traditionally African-American, they were rich in cultural heritage and traditions. Primary goals of the organizations included cultural awareness in education and service promoted through meetings, forums and other activities.

Unlike other Greek councils, NPHC organizations required new members to have completed at least 12 hours of college credit before joining.

Throughout the year, the NPHC and its organizations sponsored many activities for students around campus, including educational programs and the Step Show. The president for the Murray State chapter of the NPHC in 2007 was Marcus Lykes, a junior from Atwood, Tenn.

[alpha kappa alpha]



Member Roster: Kymberli Able, Precious Hudson, Monica Montgomery, Krystal Nance, Denisha Robinson, Kristye Russell

story by sarah baker
photograph by jessica smith

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. was the first Greek letter organization established for African-American women. The sorority was established on campus on Jan. 9, 1971. AKA, founded on the motto of "service to all mankind," had six members in 2007.

"Our motto is the sorority's primary goal, and after 99 years, the commitment of 'service to all mankind' is still going strong everyday because of the inspiration we receive from the people we help," said Kristye Russell, a junior from Louisville who served as president of the sorority.

The sorority raised money through its philanthropy, the AKA Charity Date Auction. The date auction earned money for Needline and cancer research at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

In past years, AKA sponsored numerous community events, including a voter registration drive, a health fair, clothing drives, canned food drives, book scholarships, civil rights videos and discussions and workshops on AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.

The chapter also contributed to local and national funds, such as the United Negro College Fund and the sorority's Educational Advancement Fund.

[alpha phi alpha]



Member Roster: Brian Barnett, Vernard Dicker, Kyrus Harrington, Brandon Hester, Marcus Lykes, Cowann Owens, Wesley Pitts

story by rachel ruehling
photograph by kaia fox

Alpha Phi Alpha was chartered on Murray State's campus on Jan. 11, 1969. The fraternity was originally founded by a group known as "The Seven Jewel" at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

In 2007, the chapter had seven undergraduate brothers on campus and many alumni in the area.

The philanthropies Alpha Phi Alpha sponsored included Project Alpha for March of Dimes, Step Off and Voteless People is a Hopeless People. Alpha Phi Alpha's main project was the March of Dimes.

Said Brandon Hester, a senior from Fort Campbell who served as president of the fraternity: "We choose that philanthropy because that's what our nationals focus on but there are a lot of others that we would love to help."

[delta sigma theta]



Member Roster: Christian Davis, KaSangra Hogue, Roxana Holland, NaQuita Olive, Phyllis Parker, Angela Wilson, Kartina Yandal

story by stephanie harrington
photograph by paul holladay

Since May 22, 1970, the ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., have graced Murray State's campus. This year, six women represented the Eta Upsilon chapter.

While the number may seem small, the Deltas did all they could to make a huge impact on the University and in the community. They followed their national organization's Five Point Thrust of economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health and political awareness and involvement.

The Deltas raised money for the American Red Cross through the Go Red campaign, helped in Alexander Hall with the Head Start program for children and contributed canned goods to Need Line.

Phyllis Parker, a senior Delta member from Chicago, Ill., said it was important to her that they do what they pledged to do as well as work in the community.

"The organization's programs are important to me because I feel that public service is a definite need in our community and our world," she said.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., was founded at Howard University in 1913, and now boasts more than 200,000 members in 900 chapters across the world, according to their national website.

[iota phi theta]



Member Roster: LaMarr Baucom, Rick Schultz, Tyree Simmons

story by sarah baker

photograph courtesy of lamarr baucom

Iota Phi Theta was established on campus in 2001. The fraternity's philanthropy was Toys for Tots. Members of the fraternity said they enjoyed working with this program because they could give back to children who were the future of the community.

Members were also involved in the Henry County Mentor program and have implemented fundraisers for Needline.

According to the national website for Iota Phi Theta, chapters across the nation were involved with the NAACP, the United Negro College Fund, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Project IMAGE, the National Federation of the Blind and the National Sickle Cell Foundation. Murray State's chapter of Iota Phi Theta was in a rebuilding process because of a decrease in membership caused by members entering the military, transferring schools and pursuing careers.

"The reason I chose this fraternity is because they are truly about business first and pleasure second," said LaMarr Baucom, a senior from Kevil who served as president of Iota Phi Theta.

Baucom also said Iota Phi Theta is made up of individuals who went against the grain for one common purpose. "Our motto is building a tradition, not resting upon one," he said. "Unlike any other fraternity, you can't really stereotype an Iota; we are all different."

[kappa alpha psi]



Member Roster: Michael Bolton, Tyshawyn Clark, Chad Cook, Quinton Hankins, Geco Ross, Benjamin Rush, Daryl Smith

story by samantha gebert
photograph by kaia fox

Kappa Alpha Psi celebrated its 35th anniversary April 15, 2007. Although the fraternity was small, with only seven members, it was very active in philanthropy events.

Jeremy Davis, alumnus from Birmingham, Ala., was active in Kappa Alpha Psi's philanthropies while at Murray State. "It shows that our fraternity cares about what is going on in today's society and that we would like to do something to help out with this problem," Davis said.

The fraternity's choice of philanthropy hit very close to home for its members. One of the founders died from prostate cancer several years ago, so the fraternity chose to raise money for prostate cancer research.

Michael Bolton, a business administration major from Lexington, said it was important for a fraternity to give back to others. "It's important for me that a fraternity has a philanthropy, because it's nice to know that your dues are helping someone else," Bolton said. "I have always enjoyed giving assistance to the less fortunate because when I needed help, there was always someone helping me."

Both Davis and Bolton spoke highly of the time they spent with the brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi. Said Bolton: "The fraternity life is the best thing ever. I wouldn't trade it for the world."

[phi beta sigma]



Member Roster: Terrence Biggens, James Blakney, Rohan Godson, Paul Johnson Jr., Dale Kindle, Ejouwo Oniovos, Jesse Oniovos, Brian White

story by sarah baker
photograph by kaia fox

The mission statement of Phi Beta Sigma was: "To uphold the name of Sigma and our motto 'Culture for service, and service for humanity,' while continuously growing in numbers, knowledge and the business mentality that it takes to be successful in the world today." The fraternity was formally founded and chartered at Howard University in 1914.

According to the website for the local chapter, Phi Beta Sigma was the first and only black Greek-letter fraternity to have one of its members on the face of a U.S. coin. This member was George Washington Carver, who appeared on the 1951 half dollar. Famous members of the fraternity included actor Morgan Freeman and civil rights activist Rosa Parks.

Phi Beta Sigma had three national programs, according to its national website: bigger and better business, education and social action. The bigger and better business was sponsored on the national scale to encourage others to support and promote minority-owned businesses and services. Their education program focused on lending support to graduate and undergraduate members of Phi Beta Sigma. The social action program was used to improve the general well being of minority groups.

[zeta phi beta]



Member Roster: Paige Aldich, Kim Newbern, Adrianna Payne, Jennifer Pryor, Dominique Robinson, Kristyn Russell, Kyra Williams, Victoria Wilson

story by caitlin wardlow
 photograph courtesy of kim newbern

One of the eight National Pan-Hellenic fraternities and sororities on campus was the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. The Nu Rho chapter had five undergraduate members and seven graduate members at Murray State. However, nationally, Zeta had more than 125,000 members, including chapters in Africa, Germany and all United States territories. They were the first sorority to charter a chapter in Africa.

Zeta had a program called Z-HOPE--Zetas Helping Other People Excel--which was a platform that acted as a blanket over its philanthropies. The Zetas philanthropies included Stork's Nest, which helped pregnant women with prenatal care, and March of Dimes, which provided care for premature babies. Zeta also helped to support breast cancer awareness. Through various activities and fundraising events, Zetas raised money to send to these philanthropies.

Kristyn Russell, a junior from Louisville, said Z-HOPE was important to the sorority.

"The sorority was founded based on four principles: scholarship, service, sisterly love and finer womanhood," Russell said. "Therefore, service is a characteristic that we strive to achieve in our daily lives, and the Z-HOPE Programs are an excellent way to achieve our goal of service, as well as exemplify finer womanhood."

Russell said the March of Dimes was a philanthropy close to her heart because she was born prematurely. "I have a personal understanding of how important it is to be able to give care to premature babies," she said. "Also, Stork's Nest is important to me because babies are our future, and we need to work hard to ensure that our future leaders start life off on a healthy track."

The Zetas at Murray State had the third highest grade point average of all the sororities of the National Panhellenic Council and National Pan-Hellenic Council combined. Russell said she worked hard to make good grades.

"Basically, I keep our four principles close to my heart," Russell said. "Before becoming a Zeta, I did not value these principles. Now I have an understanding of how they can be guidelines for my daily life."

formals



Katy Hume, a freshman from Louisville, Sarah Balbach, a freshman from Louisville, Autumn Grammer, a freshman from Frankfort, and Ashley Brandt, a sophomore from St. Louis, Mo., dance along with their sisters from Alpha Delta Pi at formal. ADPi's Black Diamond formal was held in April.

story by caitlin wardlow

photograph courtesy of whitney kelsey

There were many events Greeks looked forward to each year. For some, it was philanthropic events, for others, it was rush or recruitment activities; yet many were most excited about their organization's formal.

Greek formals varied in location, time and theme, but all formals had one thing in common—they were a time to dress up, enjoy an evening with brothers or sisters and their dates and take lots of pictures.

Emily Hays, a senior Alpha Sigma Alpha member from Lexington, said some of her best memories have come from time spent at formals. "I went to my last formal in November and it was probably the best," Hays said. "Everyone just has so much fun and enjoys each other's company." The sorority held their formal on Nov. 11 at J. Edwards restaurant in Murray.

A typical Greek formal included dinner, dancing and, for those who were of age, drinking. "It's like high school homecoming meets a wedding reception," Hays said. "It's organized and grown-up like a wedding reception, but still laid back with some goofing off like a homecoming."

10-year anniversary
new clark college
clark college
elizabeth college
hart college
hester college
ryan allen profile
regents college
richmond college
springer-franklin college
white college
bonnie higinson profile
college courts
off-campus living



photograph by caitlin dunnagan

A member of Hester Residential College competes in the Hester Dance Dance Revolution Relay for Life tournament. Around 80 students attended the competition, which was held on October 10.

[residential college life]



Residents of Clark College enjoy playing tug-of-war on the college's front lawn. During warm weather, residents often joined together to participate in outdoor recreational activities.

a decade's journey

residential college system

celebrates its 10th year on campus

story by amanda smith
photograph by elaine kight

In the 13th century, the University of Oxford established the world's first "halls of residence."

In 1996, Murray State became the only state university in the United States to adopt a similar residential college system. This year, the colleges celebrated their 10th anniversary.

Planning for the residential college system began two years prior to its introduction, when the University identified retention rates as a serious problem. At the time, only about 62 percent of freshmen were returning for the second year of college, "typically because they didn't feel a part of the campus," said Dr. Don Robertson, Vice-President of Student Affairs.

When Dr. Kern Alexander arrived to serve as University president in 1994, he brought with him the concept of a residential college system as a solution to the retention problem, Robertson said. Alexander was a graduate of the universities of Oxford and Cambridge in England, both schools that utilize the system.

Robertson led the effort to convert the campus' dorms to eight residential colleges. This required shifts in faculty responsibilities, student leadership and overall university mentality.

Every student, whether traditional or non-traditional, commuter or resident, freshman or graduate student, was assigned to a college. Each faculty and professional staff member also received a college assignment.

"The goal was to have eight smaller versions of MSU," Robertson said. Every college was to be as diverse as the school itself.

Each building or group of buildings was given the opportunity to enact a constitution, to select a mascot, flag and colors and to annually elect its own governing body, effectively creating eight small-scale colleges.

Breaking the University into more manageable parts allowed students to foster a stronger sense of community than would normally be possible at a school with an enrollment then around 9,000. "Many students really identify with their residential colleges," Dr. Bonnie Higginson, head of White College, said.

Higginson said that since the system's inception,

she had seen a substantial increase in commuter involvement, an area that had traditionally been a challenge for larger universities.

"Approximately half of the student leaders at White this year do not live in the building," she said. Higginson also said the residential colleges encouraged students to stay involved, even when they moved off campus as upperclassmen.

In addition, the colleges presented a number of outlets for student leadership. On top of governing and decision-making councils, each college boasted its

own intramural athletic teams, honor societies and traditions. "The residential colleges have changed the campus culture by providing additional opportunities for student involvement," Dr. Ann Landini, head of Hart College, said.

Faculty members were also encouraged to involve

themselves in the colleges. Though participation was not mandatory, an increasing number of faculty members were engaged in tutoring, advising and presenting programs within their assigned colleges. They also provided food for various events, Higginson said.

"The colleges provide an opportunity for students and faculty to get together outside the classroom," Robertson said. "Students value the personal attention."

Whatever the reasons for the residential colleges' success, the numbers proved their worth. Retention rates rose to 77.8 percent during the system's first decade at the University.

"Students have allegiances to their colleges," Robertson said, "just like the Greek system." Many alumni events were even centered around the residential colleges, he said.

The residential college system provided a unique and valuable experience for many students, from the freshman year through the master's degree.

"It gives a student a sense of belonging to the university from the first day he or she attends MSU," Landini said. "It provides a connection not found on most public university campuses."

inside the system

what makes a residential college

- One Faculty Head to serve as a leader and advocate for the students in the college
- 1,200-1,500 students (both commuters and residents)
- One Residence Director (usually a graduate student)
- Approximately 100 faculty members
- Eight to 10 Resident Advisors
- One Residential College Council
- Several desk workers

construction zone

new clark college offers different living arrangements, modern amenities

story by amanda smith
photographs by elaine kight
floor plan courtesy of luke & farley architects

Workers broke ground in April 2006 for the University's first new residential college since 1970.

The new Lee Clark College, located behind Winslow Cafeteria on Waldrop Drive, was scheduled to open in the fall of 2007.

The facility was designed to house 304 students in a variety of room configurations, said Dr. Dewey Yeatts, Chief Facilities Officer and Associate Vice-President.

While the old building had only double-occupancy rooms in a two bedroom, one bathroom suite layout, the new college offered students the additional options of private rooms and bathrooms shared among one, three or four residents, Yeatts said.

The new facility also featured amenities not available in many of the older residential colleges. Clark College would be the first residence hall on campus to have wireless internet capabilities and in-room air temperature control.

However, students choosing to live in the new college would also pay higher housing costs, said Dr.

Don Robertson, Vice-President of Student Affairs.

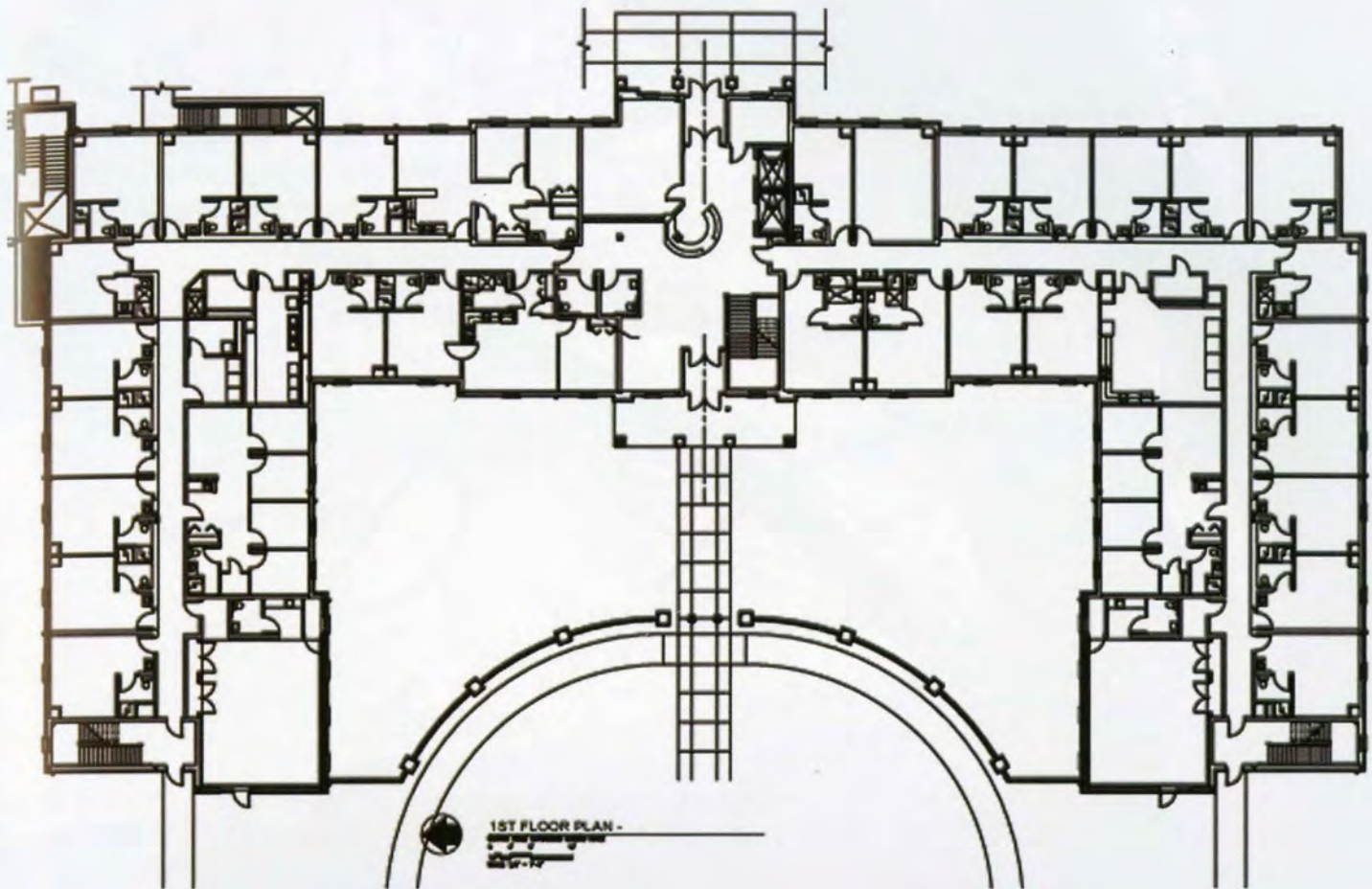
"The amount has not been determined as of yet," he said. "We are looking at what others are charging and tying that into what is appropriate in our pricing structure, campus culture and philosophy."

Still, many of the old building's residents were excited about the move. "I'm hoping that the new Clark is going to be beautiful and more homey," Jessica Beaty, a freshman from Smithton, Ill., said. "It'll be nice to be comfortable in my room and not have it feel like I'm trapped."

Though the long-term plan was to demolish the old building to make room for more new construction, Yeatts said the building would remain open in the immediate future for use as overflow housing and office space.

"It's very exciting to see Clark College – the first of many new residential colleges – take shape," Yeatts said. "We are also very excited to be adding such an attractive building to our campus."





room configurations for the new clark college

60 private rooms, grouped in 15 suites of four rooms sharing one bathroom

112 semi-private rooms, grouped in 56 suites of two rooms sharing one bathroom

8 residential advisor rooms, each with its own bathroom

3 private rooms, each with its own bathroom

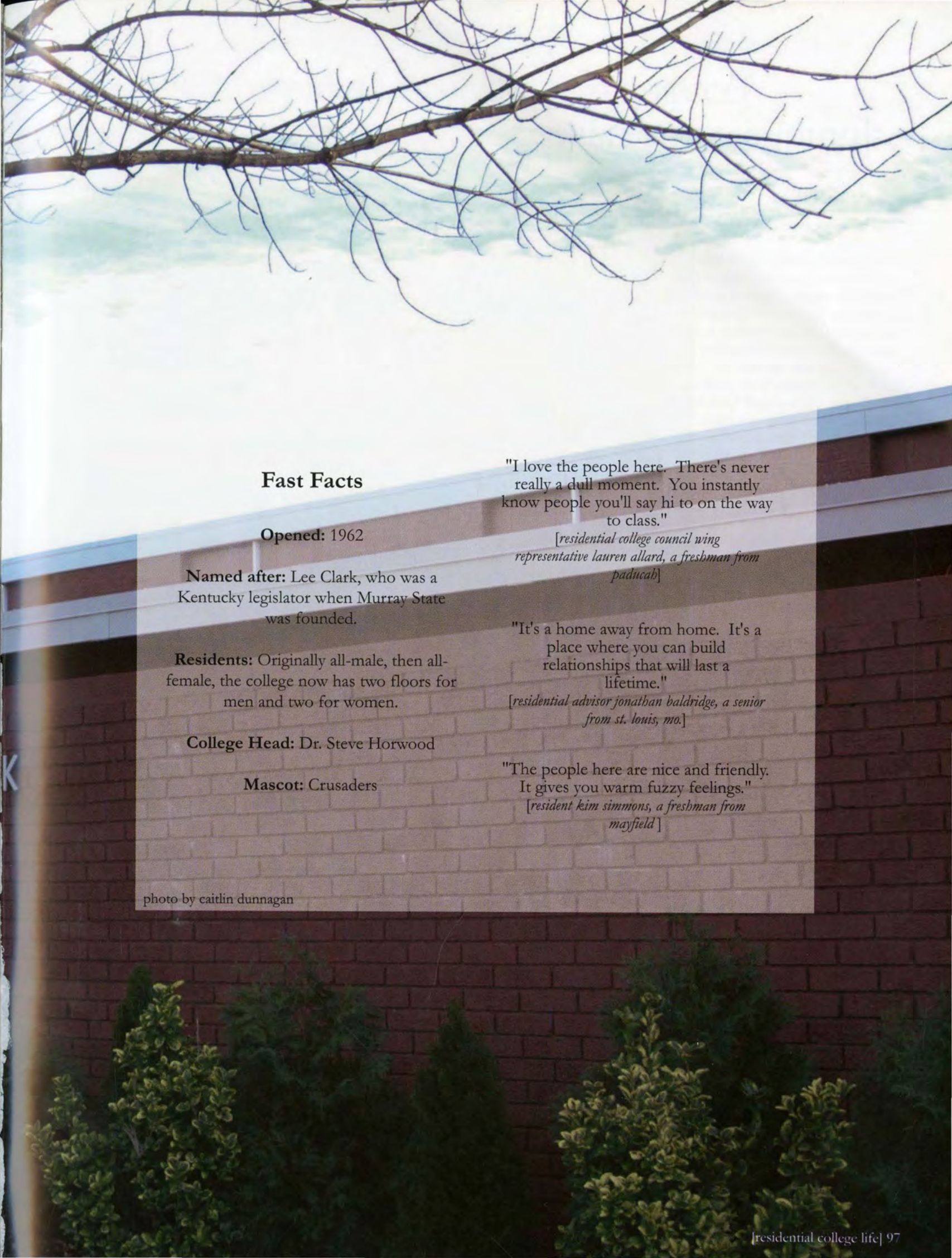
9 private rooms, grouped in three suites of three rooms sharing one bathroom





LEE CLA

[clark college]



Fast Facts

Opened: 1962

Named after: Lee Clark, who was a Kentucky legislator when Murray State was founded.

Residents: Originally all-male, then all-female, the college now has two floors for men and two for women.

College Head: Dr. Steve Horwood

Mascot: Crusaders

"I love the people here. There's never really a dull moment. You instantly know people you'll say hi to on the way to class."

[residential college council wing representative lauren allard, a freshman from paducah]

"It's a home away from home. It's a place where you can build relationships that will last a lifetime."

[residential advisor jonathan baldridge, a senior from st. louis, mo.]

"The people here are nice and friendly. It gives you warm fuzzy feelings."

[resident kim simmons, a freshman from mayfield]

photo by caitlin dunnagan

[unique game raises awareness for winfield house]



story and photograph by amanda smith

On Saturday, March 3, Clark residents tried their hands at a new type of bowling.

Bowling for Cans was an event designed to raise awareness and money for Clark College's philanthropy, the Winfield House in Augusta. Students used one canned good as a bowling ball to knock down 10 others. Each of the participants bowled three frames.

"I think it's good to do this because you get to have fun and help a good cause," Grant Kessler, a

freshman from Paducah, said.

Colin Lee, a sophomore from Owensboro and residential advisor in Clark College, organized the event. "We needed to do something for community service," he said. "I thought it would be good to make a donation to the Winfield House."

The Winfield House provided after-school care, clothes and food to children in need in northern Kentucky. The cans collected for the event were donated to the organization.

[clark idol 2 inspires musical performance]

story and photograph by amanda smith



Clark College residents spent the evening of March 15 putting on a show. The college's "Clark Idol 2" program gave students an evening of musical entertainment in their spin-off of Fox's *American Idol*.

Residents enjoyed several performances, both instrumental and vocal. However, instead of competing as is done in most *Idol* events, Clark Idol 2 served as a recital for student performance.

Lindsay Burris, a senior from Mt. Vernon, Ill. and second-year resident of Clark College, sang "Undeniably You," by Avalon. She said she enjoyed the low-pressure environment of the event. "It was just for fun," Burris said.

Burris' performance was preceded by a piano solo and a guitar and vocal performance. She was followed by two more pianists.

The event drew about 20 students to the college's TV lounge.

[community poker draws clark residents]

story by sarah baker
photograph by rachel ruehling

On Thursday, March 1, a Texas Hold 'Em tournament was held in Clark College. Michel Clemons, a junior from Louisville and residential advisor in Clark, organized the program.

"I chose to host this event because most of the college can participate in it," Clemons said.

Texas Hold 'Em was a community poker game played with two to 10 players. It was popular all over the world.

Aaron Butler, a junior from Owensboro and a participant in the tournament, said he really enjoyed the card game.


"It's fun because the rules are easy to understand and because it is a game of strategy," he said.

Butler, who won the tournament, was awarded a free pizza.





[elizabeth college]



Fast Facts

Opened: 1964

Named after: Elizabeth Harkless Woods,
wife of former Murray State president
Ralph Woods.

Residents: Originally all-female, the
college now has three floors for men and
five for women.

College Head: Robert Valentine

Mascot: Eagles

photo by elaine kight

"There are always people around.
Everyone's friendly. It's just the place to
be, unless you don't like people. Then
you shouldn't come."

*[residential advisor jake elliot, a junior from
mayfield]*

"Our lobby is conducive to hanging out,
so you meet a lot of people. You don't
just sleep in Lizo. You live in Lizo."

*[desk worker bryce smith, a senior from
louisville]*

"You get to know people
better here than you do anywhere else.
People don't come in and go straight
up to their rooms. They stay and hang
out."

*[resident michael siebert, a junior from
belleville, ill.]*

[multicultural feast brings the world to elizabeth]



story and photograph by amanda smith

On March 5, residents of Elizabeth College tasted dishes from all over the world—all cooked in the college's kitchen.

The five female residential advisors in the college worked together to organize this year's Buffet of the World, an annual program in Elizabeth.

"We wanted to help encourage the diversity that is in our college," Jamie Houston, a sophomore RA from Louisville, said.

Yoko Hatakeyama, a professor of Japanese culture, was the guest speaker at the event. She told residents about her experiences in both Japan and the United States and showed pictures of Japanese homes, businesses and schools.

After Hatakeyama's lecture, it was time to

eat. Residents, RAs and special guests concocted dishes from a variety of cultures and served them from tables set up in the college's lobby.

Heidi Taylor, a senior from Central City who had participated in the program for three years, made perogi for the event. She defined it as a stuffed shell dish that could be filled with almost anything, from sauerkraut to cheese. Guests also enjoyed quiche, noodles and a number of other dishes.

"Aside from music, food is a universal language," Taylor said. "You don't have to speak a word of the language or know anything about the culture in order to understand what you're eating and how good it is."

[residents donate an afternoon to angel's attic]



story and photograph by amanda smith

On March 4, students took a break from studying to clean out someone else's closet.

Residents of Elizabeth College, together with students affiliated with the Baptist Campus Ministry, spent the afternoon volunteering at Angel's Attic. The group helped the Murray thrift store empty its racks of winter clothes to make room for spring items.

Angel's Attic was a second-hand store located on Chestnut Street near Cheri Theater. The organization's profits funded Angel's Clinic, a medical center designed to help those without insurance get the prescriptions they needed.

Kristen Jones, a junior from Louisville and residential advisor in Elizabeth College, organized the program. "Angel's Attic gives so much to the community and does so much to help," she said. "It's our responsibility to do what we can to help."

Caitlyn Droste, a freshman from Louisville and resident on Jones' floor, also spent the day at the thrift store. Said Droste: "It's good to give back to the community in any way you can."

[students discover unique ramen recipes]

story and photograph by stephanie harrington

In early February, Elizabeth College residents learned a little bit about money management during a ramen noodle-themed program. Resident advisors Kristen Jones, a junior from Louisville, and Ashley Cook, a junior from Marion, held the program after Jones found a website with many Ramen recipes.

Jones said they believed the program, which they called "Two Dollar a Day Rockin' Ramen Recipes," would be helpful because students can purchase a single package of Ramen noodles for about 94 cents.

Jones and Cook found recipes for every meal but chose mostly desserts and the most inexpensive. They prepared a ramen fruit salad, chocolate ramen, strawberry ramen and even caramel and apples ramen.

After the program's attendees chose which dishes to eat, Jones and Cook talked to them about money management.

Students appeared responsive to both the advice and the food.


"The strawberry one is the best," Emily Bauer, a junior from Louisville, said.

Andrew Perkins, a junior from Symsonia, also enjoyed the meal. "My brain got confused because it's supposed to be dessert but it's ramen noodles," he said. "Weird, but good!"





[hart college]



Fast Facts

Opened: 1966

Named after: George S. Hart, a former member of the Board of Regents and former mayor of Murray.

Residents: Originally all-male, the college now has three floors for men and three floors for women.

College Head: Dr. Ann Landini

Mascot: Ravens

"Living in Hart is like living in the rich neighborhood of the residential colleges. It's the biggest, we dominate at sports and it gives you a lot of connections with students and professors and opportunities to be involved."

[off-campus college member cassie abbott, a junior from dawson springs]

"Everyone should live in Hart because there is never a dull moment. We've got great residents, a great staff and a plethora of great times."

[residential director ashleigh weddle, a graduate student from bedford, ind.]

"As the 'heart' of the residential colleges, Hart is a building full of fun-loving people with diverse interests. Hart also provides a warm, friendly atmosphere."

[residential advisor savannah bryant, a senior from campbellsville]

photo by elaine kight

[free food draws students to study abroad fair]



story by amanda smith
photograph by leah wood

On Feb. 7, Hart residents got a taste of Mexico, Spain, England, Austria, China and other places around the world.

The Hart Study Abroad Fair brought faculty, students and program representatives to the college's lobby to talk about spending a semester or a summer overseas.

Ron Beaton, a sophomore from Kennett, Mo., was one of the many students who attended the event as a perspective traveler. "I think it's a wonderful program to learn about," he said. "I'd love to go to Prague someday."

Amanda Felber, a senior from Nashville, Tenn. and residential advisor in Hart College, was enthusiastic about the event. She spent the fall of 2005 in Segovia, Spain. "I'm excited to be a part of this program because I see it as an opportunity to expand students' horizons," she said. "My semester in Segovia was one of my favorites as a college student."

The program, which drew a large crowd from multiple residential colleges, was facilitated by RAs from Richmond, Elizabeth and Hart.

[event highlights controversial topics]



story and photograph by amanda smith

Once a semester, Hart residents had the opportunity to gather in the first floor coffee shop to talk about something a little unusual.

On Nov. 14, students met to hear Dr. Duane Bolin's lecture on former University of Kentucky basketball coach Adolph Rupp. The program, titled "What Not To Talk About," was the second in a three-part series sponsored by two Hart College residential advisors. The first lecture discussed religion in the Bible Belt, and the third was slated to cover politics.

Savannah Bryant, a senior from Campbellsville who co-sponsored the program, believed the value of the program lay in its ability to get students thinking and talking about subjects outside the realm of normal conversation.

"There is no way on earth that, normally, a group of white, college age UK basketball fans would talk about how much of a racist Adolph Rupp was," Bryant said. "There's also no way that any of us would have thought about the racial tensions in the state and in the south in a way that hits so close to home."

[golf class provides recreation and fun]

story by rachel ruehling
photograph by allie bryan

In mid-March, 20 students from Hart College and Hester College began a very unique half-semester course—golf. The course, REC 108, was open only to students in those colleges, and was held at the Francis E. Miller Memorial Golf Course.

The objective of this course, taught by Wes Duffy, was to learn golf etiquette, technique and rules. The class met twice a week for an hour and a half at the golf course, with most instruction occurring on the driving range. The students learned about proper form, how to gauge direction and strength and what clubs to use.

Students were not the only ones to benefit from the course. Dr. Ann Landini and Dr. Eric Umstead, the heads of the colleges, also enjoyed the golf instruction.


"Golf class not only taught me how to play a gentleman's sport, but it was a great way to relax after a hard day of classes," Allie Bryan, a freshman from Hardinsburg, said.

Although the majority of instruction took place at the driving range, residents from the two colleges planned to face off at the end of the semester in a tournament on the course.





hester college



Fast Facts

Opened: 1967

Named after: Cleo Gillis Hester, who was registrar at Murray State for more than 30 years.

Residents: Originally all female, Hester now has four floors for men and four for women.

College Head: Dr. Eric Umstead

Mascot: Hedgehogs

"We have big closets and you don't have to clean your own bathroom."

[desk worker elyse bills, a sophomore from mt. vernon, ill.]

"If you want to have fun, win stuff, get to know people and be cool, live in Hester. If you just want to live somewhere and be lame, live somewhere else."

[resident jesse grisham, a senior from paducah]

"If you don't come to Hester, you'll be mauled by a gorilla."

[residential advisor zachary pressley, a sophomore from madisonville]

photo by elaine kight

[students dance for relay for life]



story by amanda smith
photograph by caitlin dunnagan

Hester residents had an opportunity to dance for a cure Oct. 10. For an entry fee of \$3, students could compete in a Dance Dance Revolution (DDR) tournament sponsored by two residential advisors from the college, Jessie Pirtle, a senior from Dukedom, Tenn., and Emily Hough, a senior from Newburgh, Ind. Proceeds from the event were donated to the college's Relay for Life team.

DDR was an interactive game designed for several different gaming console platforms. Players stood on a touch-sensitive pad that measured their ability to obey on-screen commands about

where to place their feet. At the end of each song, a winner was declared.

Approximately 80 students attended the event. First prize, a free large pizza from Papa John's, went to DJ Wilson, a sophomore from Frankfort. "I play it like it's a sport," he said. Wilson had been playing for about a year and a half and was president of the campus DDR club.

The event raised \$30 for Hester's Relay for Life team. "It was pretty funny when everyone was really getting into it," Hough said. "Some people were more experienced than others, but that made it really fun."

[residents indulge in shamrock shakes]

story by amanda smith
photograph by kaia fox



More than 50 Hester residents gathered in the college's lobby March 12 for a green treat.

Hester's annual Shamrock Shakes program gave students an opportunity to socialize and relax during the hectic week before spring break.

Zach Pressley, a junior from Madisonville, coordinated the event, which involved the making and consumption of mint-flavored green milkshakes. "The program is a Hester tradition to celebrate St. Patty's Day," he said.

Amanda Bates, a junior from Berea, helped scoop ice cream at the gathering. "The best part of the program is just seeing everyone down in the lobby," she said. "With tests and papers due, it is a good opportunity to see people who you may not see that often because of busy school work."

The taste of the shakes also drew residents to the event. "I decided to go because they sounded good," said Emily Kohl, a freshman from Fort Branch, Ind., who ended up helping Pressley make shakes.

Still, Pressley said that his favorite part of the event was the result. "The best part of Shamrock Shakes was having green hands from the food coloring," he said. "It took about a week before the dye was gone."

story and photograph by amanda smith

Every year, Hester College graduates return to their college to inscribe their names on the infamous Hester Rock.

The idea for the tradition originated several years ago when Dr. Ron Cella was Hester's college head. "At the time it just seemed really silly," said Ashley Bierman, an alumna from Centralia, Ill., who was a freshman serving on the Residential College Council when Cella suggested the unique program.

However, as she saw how serious Cella was about the idea, Bierman began to find the concept more plausible. "It became a fun idea instead of a silly one," she said.

Amanda Lough, an alumna from McLeansboro, Ill., was also a freshman when the rock signing began. "It was a fun process at council meetings when we voted to allow Dr. Cella to use part of the budget to buy a rock," she said.

Lough signed the Hester Rock and the "Rock Roll," a book that accompanies it, in spring 2007. She met her husband and several close friends in the college. "Our names will be together on that rock for as long as it stands there," she said. "It's a neat tradition to be a part of."

In December, four years after witnessing her first rock signing, Bierman, along with two of her closest friends from her years in Hester, added her name and graduation date to the rock.

"Even though it's a silly tradition, I love it," said Bierman. "I really hope it continues for a long time."

[seniors sign hester rock]



all in a day's work

hester residential advisor makes people a priority

story by amanda smith

photograph by caitlin dunnagan

The job description for a Murray State Residential Advisor was a long one. RAs were responsible for a number of tasks, including creating and implementing programs, encouraging community, enforcing rules and discipline, working at the front desk and being accountable for safety in the residential colleges. They were often on-call and required to be in the college and available one night per week and five weekends each semester.

However, to Ryan Allen, a senior from Knoxville, Tenn., and an RA in Hester College, these obligations were just a small part of the job. "Being there for people is the largest thing," he said.

The school year was Allen's first as an RA. He spent spring 2006 completing an internship in Florida and decided to take the RA job when he returned. He said staying active, having fun, getting paid and having his own room were perks that helped him make this decision. Ultimately, however, it was getting to know the residents that drew him to the position. "I like people," said Allen.

The 47 residents on Allen's third floor "Animal House" could see this in their interactions with their RA. "He's always trying to get involved with us," said Eric Ornella, a freshman from Cincinnati, Ohio. "He's always knocking on our doors and checking up on us."

Allen said his residents did the same. "The guys on my floor ask me to come to their rooms and eat pizza and watch movies," he said. This was one of Allen's favorite aspects of his job.

The programs he sponsored in Hester gave Allen other opportunities to bond with his residents. During the fall semester, he organized "People Bingo," dodge ball, a drug and alcohol awareness program and a "Meet the Parents" day that involved his mom and dad visiting campus and cooking a vat of chili for the men on his floor. Allen received an "Of the Month" award for his spontaneous "Tornado Safety Awareness" program during a Sept. 22 tornado warning. "Cre-

ativity is a hobby, I guess," Allen said of his more imaginative programs.

Abram Brummett, a graduate student from Edwardsville, Ill., and Residential Director in Hester College, appreciated this aspect of Allen's personality. "Ryan is above and beyond an RA," he said. "He really does a great job and Hester appreciates him for the character he brings to the community."

Still, student interactions and the freedom to invent creative get-togethers were not the only parts of the job Allen enjoyed. He also liked being aware of all of the events and incidents in the college. "You're in the loop all the time," he said.

To Allen, however, the authority that came with being informed could also be a drawback. The worst part of the job was "people not thinking of you as a person, just as a university employee," he said. "I hate enforcing the rules when I want it to be fun." Allen also disliked interruptions to his sleep, like having to get up in the middle of the night to flip a breaker.

Regardless, Allen loved his job and credited that, at least partially, to the residential college system on campus. "It really builds community," he said. "It makes people feel like they're at home." He said that the university's unique setup was the only reason he chose to live on campus after transferring from Pellissippi State Technical Community College in Knoxville, Tenn. in spring 2005.

However, involvement in the residential colleges wasn't Allen's only responsibility. In addition to being engaged and planning for a wedding in September 2007, he was a member of the American Society of Safety Engineers, an employee of a safety consultant firm, a web page administrator and a landscaper. "I do better under pressure," he said of his busy schedule, "but it gets tough."

Despite the stress, Allen recommended his job to anyone who likes people. "Don't do it for the money or the resume," he said. "Do it for the students."



Residential Advisor Ryan Allen greets students in Hester College's lobby. Allen spent three hours each week working at the front desk as part of his RA duties.

[ryan allen]



[regents college]

114 [regents residential college]



Fast Facts

Opened: 1970

Named after: All past and present members of the Board of Regents.

Residents: Originally all female, Regents College now has three floors for men and five for women.

College Head: Squire Babcock

Mascot: Rhinos

"The best thing about Regents would definitely have to be the Starbucks in the lobby. Sure, Hart has one too, but they have to share with everyone. The people who work in Regents are able to actually get to know you and it's the only place I've ever been where I can walk up and say 'Gimme the usual.'"

[resident shawn bruce, a sophomore from maryville, ill.]

"Regents has a brand new lobby, a coffee shop, wireless internet access and a whole lot of love!"

[residential director reggie sham, a graduate student from paducah]

"We are like a family. It's very diverse. We have lots of international students. We house the track team, the basketball team and the speech and debate team. Because of all this and more, the Regents Rhinos dominate Murray State."

[residential advisor lasacha conley, a sophomore from atlanta, ga.]

photo by elaine kight

[fun-filled night of games offers relaxation]



story and photograph by amanda smith

On April 1, the second floor lobby in Regents College looked a lot like Las Vegas.

The college's honor society hosted Casino Night, a program used to raise money for Relay for Life. Residents were invited to buy play money at the door and use it to play games and purchase mock cocktails at the event.

Lasacha Conley, a sophomore from Hopkinsville and president of the Regents College Honor Society, organized the evening's festivities.

"It's a good cause that I'm really excited about," Conley said.

Residents played betting games like Black Jack and Craps, but could also use their play money to buy spots in some less traditional casino games. These included Cranium, Life, Taboo, Skip-Bo and Uno. The games were overseen by student volunteers from the college.

The event raised \$51 to be donated to the Relay for Life.

[date auction raises money for relay for life]



story and photograph by amanda smith

On March 7, residents of Regents College auctioned themselves off for a good cause.

The college's annual date auction raised more than \$270 for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, a charitable event that supported cancer research.

Lasacha Conley, a sophomore from Hopkinsville and residential advisor in Regents, helped organize the program. "It was effective last year and it's going to a good cause," she said. "We raised a lot of money."

However, recruiting people who were willing to be auctioned off presented a bit of a challenge. "If we knew them and they were willing, we made them do it," Conley said.

In the end, about 15 residents put themselves up for sale. Alan Harley, a senior from Bowling Green and RA in the college, brought in the highest bid. He sold for \$44, which was \$4 over the bidding cap.

[program encourages healthy eating]

story and photograph by amanda smith

Residents of Regents College gathered in the lobby March 29 to enjoy healthy snacks while learning about the dangers of unhealthy eating.

Sierra Williams, a sophomore from Murray and residential advisor in the college, sponsored the "Would You Like Fries With That?" program.

Residents in attendance viewed "Super Size Me," a documentary by Morgan Spurlock that detailed the fast food consumption habits of Americans and the consequences thereof.

"I watched it and I stopped eating McDonald's," Williams said. "It's a very educational movie."

Williams provided carrots, celery, oranges and other healthy snacks for the audience.

"This movie won't surprise me," Alex Conway, a freshman from Mt. Washington, said. "I worked at McDonald's for nine months."





[richmond college]

Fast Facts

Opened: 1961

Named after: James H. Richmond,
Murray State's third president.

Residents: Originally all male, the college
now has two floors for men and two for
women.

College Head: Dr. Oliver Muscio

Mascot: Lions

"We are the smallest building on
campus. The limited number of stu-
dents allows for a better sense of
community. You know who's who, and
when you walk in the doors, it feels like
home."

*[residential advisor jen mcpherson, a junior from
louisville]*

"I've got a lot of friends in here."

*[resident david gramenz, a senior from
stelleville, ill.]*

"It's smaller, so you know
everyone, and you don't get lost in the
crowd. It's pretty awesome."

*[residential college council decorating chair ashlee
gladson, a junior from collierville, tenn.]*

photo by elaine kight

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

[hawaiian luau gives students taste of paradise]



story and photograph by elaine kight

Richmond College students relaxed to the sound of ocean breezes and dined on authentic Hawaiian grub prior to leaving campus for spring break.

Ashley Johnston, a sophomore from Paducah, hosted a Hawaiian luau on March 13 that featured authentic Hawaiian foods, music and leis.

The spread included fruit punch, bananas, pineapples and pineapple pudding, white rice and Hawaiian chicken.

For Ashlee Gladson, a junior from Collierville, Tenn., the chicken was a new but delicious dish. The recipe, which Johnston found online, called for boneless chicken, pineapple, peppers and onion soup mix. "I wanted to try something new," she said of her concoction.

Johnston decided to host the program to give students a taste of Hawaii and a break from studying. "I like Hawaii and I thought it would be fun to learn to make Hawaiian food," she said.

[annual party attracts mummies and monsters]



story and photograph by amanda smith

Richmond residents gathered in the college's library for the traditional costumed Halloween celebration Oct. 30.

After nearly a week of preparation, the room was strewn with cobwebs, equipped with a strobe light and sound system and packed with students. The party's activities included bobbing for apples and hours of dancing.

"I've come every year," said Megan Rowlett, a junior from Paris, Tenn. "It's a tradition here in Richmond."

Joey Conners, a sophomore from Louisville, came to the Halloween party for more social reasons. "Cool people come to hall parties," he said.

Like other residential college social events, the celebration offered residents a chance to mingle and to get to know their neighbors. Said Conners: "I like hanging out with friends and meeting new people."

[contest hits the right note for large crowd]

story and photograph by amanda smith

Richmond residents showcased their musical talents, or at least their video game skills, at a "Guitar Hero" tournament Feb. 21

The event pitted participants against one another in the PlayStation 2 game at three different levels: medium, hard and expert. It was hosted by residential advisors Michael Lane, a junior from Danville, and Jason Gregory, a sophomore from Glen Dean.

The 20 contestants played the game in a tournament style. Each of the three skill levels had its own competition bracket posted on the TV lounge wall.

Ali Wymer, a freshman from St. Louis, Mo., entered the contest as a medium-level player. "I'm secretly addicted to 'Guitar Hero,'" she said. "I needed to show my skills."

Chris White, a sophomore from Benton, played the game for its social benefits. "It's nice to see everybody and hang out for a while," he said. "You need to take a break from school."

Richmond residents won the competition at the medium and hard levels. A visiting Franklin resident topped the bracket at the expert level.





[springer-franklin college]

Fast Facts

Springer College

Opened: 1964

Named after: O.B. Springer, a graduate of Murray State who served on the Board of Regents.

Residents: Originally all male, the college now houses three floors for females.

Franklin College

Opened: 1963

Named after: Hollis C. Franklin, who served on the Board of Regents.

Residents: Franklin was originally all male but now houses three floors for males and one for females.

College Head: Dr. Marty Jacobs

Mascot: Terrapins

"We give our residents a lot of opportunities to decorate the halls and make them feel like home. There are lots of ways to get involved."

[franklin residential advisor megan berry, a junior from owensboro]

"Not that we don't love the boys, but it's nice to be able to wander around in our PJs."

[springer resident magdalene beam, a freshman from belleville, ill.]

"I think Springer-Franklin is the best because of a sense of community. You often see Franklin RAs in Springer and Springer RAs in Franklin, intermingling."

[franklin residential director brittany leslie, a graduate student from gurnee, ill.]

photo by caitlin dunnagan

[springer residents enjoy greek feast]



story and photograph by amanda smith

On April 4, Springer residents crowded into the college's kitchen, waiting for an Easter feast.

Ioanna Savva, a freshman from Cyprus, cooked a traditional Greek meal for students in celebration of Easter. The main course was psito, a dish made with chicken, potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, cinnamon, pepper and salt. She also served bread sent by her mother from Cyprus and a Greek yogurt salad.

Savva's sister, Mary, who attended college in New York and was visiting for spring break, helped her cook the meal. She also provided Greek music to help set the mood for the dinner.

"I like this food," said Savva, who has been in the United States since August and plans to complete her degree at Murray State. "It reminds me of my mom."

Jenny Naes, a senior from St. Louis, Mo., and Elizabeth Murray, a junior from Memphis, Tenn., organized the event as a follow-up to a Korean food night held at the college during the fall semester. "It's a good way to get international students involved," Murray said.

About 20 students attended the Greek dinner. "Everyone loves Ioanna," Naes said. "We thought it would be great."

[residential advisors host weezie's wild weekend]



story and photograph by sarah hovekamp

After receiving several complaints of there being nothing to do on campus, Franklin College residential advisors Meggan Berry, a junior from Owensboro, and Cowann Owens, a senior from Louisville, decided to host a weekend full of excitement.

"Weezie's Wild Weekend" kicked off with a pool tournament Friday, March 9. A volleyball game was held during the day on Saturday, and a spades tournament was held that night.

Not only were the activities fun, they also featured rules and tips on how to best perform at each game.

"All of the activities are educational, as in you can learn how to play," Berry said.

Although most of the events were held in Franklin, everyone was welcome. "It's a weekend of community builders," Owens said.

Franklin residents and others seemed to enjoy the weekend-long program.

Said John Clark, a junior White College resident from Owensboro: "It's good. I like it."

[students vie for big booty]

story by amanda smith
photograph by caitlin dunnagan

Residents of Franklin College fought for the title of "Big Booty" during a college-wide competition Sept. 27.

Cowann Owens, a senior from Louisville, was a residential advisor in Franklin College and sponsored the program.

Residents first expressed interest in the game during a tornado warning Sept. 22 that sent many to the first floor study lounge for shelter.

At the time, it was a distraction, "just to keep people's minds off the storm," Owens said.

However, he decided to bring the game up to the college's main level in hopes of attracting even more participants.

Said Owen: "I enjoy putting on programs that my residents enjoy."





[white college]



Fast Facts

Opened: 1966

Named after: R.H. "Bob" White, a Board of Regents member and businessman.

Residents: The college was originally all male but now houses four floors of men and four of women.

College Head: Dr. Bonnie Higginson

Mascot: Sharks

"We have the best RD, the best college head and the best residents."

[residential advisor elizabeth thornhill, a junior from shepherdsville]

"We've won RCC of the Year six of the past seven years. We also have a new lobby and dry erase wallpaper. We have lobbies on every floor. We have great international programs. We're dedicated to community service and always raise money for ALS."

[residential director lacy cheek, a graduate student from fordsville]

"We have an enthusiastic and fun atmosphere."

[resident jordan james, a sophomore from dawson springs]

photo by caitlin dunnagan

[fundraiser draws large crowd]



story by kelsey quade
photograph by sarah bynum

On Feb. 21, students could enjoy all the home-made chili and drinks they wanted for a single dollar at the third annual Chili Cook-Off held in White College. The event was used as a fundraiser for Relay for Life, which aids in research and funds programs for the American Cancer Society.

Katie Columbia, a junior from Frankfort, was responsible for the cook-off in 2006 and returned to keep the tradition alive. Judges for the event were Joyce Shatzer, professor of early childhood and elementary education; Mark Galloway, international student advisor; and Bill McKibben, international student advisor and scholar coordinator.

Seven different types of chili were presented to the judges for tasting, varying from chicken

to beef and mild to spicy. The judges and White College residents, as well as other students, placed their votes on which chili they liked the most.

Third place in the contest went to Travis Martin, a junior from Marion; second place went to William Hubsch, a junior from Shelbyville; and first place went to Dr. Mary Lou Yeatts, a faculty member in the department of educational leadership and counseling. It was not the first time Yeatts took home the first-place prize; she also won in 2005 with a different recipe.

Lauren Bradley, a freshman from Clarksville, Tenn., said the program was a good choice because it allowed people to socialize and it was for a good cause.

[residents welcome winter with knitting program]



story and photograph by amanda smith

Students in White College spent a cold, rainy November evening learning to make their own scarves.

Stacy Woods, a senior from Franklin, Tenn., and a residential advisor in White College, organized a "Learn to Knit" program Nov. 14 at the request of many residents. "I learned to knit this summer and it's a lot of fun," she said. "I'm always knitting at the front desk and people always tell me they want to learn."

Woods began the evening with a brief history lesson on the craft. She taught residents about the origins of knitting and the many roles it had played in the past. She also provided yarn and needles and helped program attendees begin their own knitting projects.

One of the eager learners at the program was Kim McDaniel, a freshman from Paducah.

Said McDaniel: "This adds to my crazy grandma skills."

[students receive lesson in conflict management]

story by kelsey quade
photograph by kaia fox

"Shut Yo Mouth" was a residential college program for White College residents designed to address the issue of conflict management. Two residential advisors, Patrick Wallace, a sophomore from Hawesville, and Amber Bromley, a junior from West Frankfort, Ill., arranged the program to help residents handle difficult situations and control feelings that arose during conflicts.

Participants gathered in White's TV lounge and were given index cards with written scenarios that could cause conflict. Each scenario was then acted out by a pair of residents. Scenarios included a child throwing a tantrum in McDonald's, a police officer pulling someone over for speeding and a confrontation involving a bartender and an intoxicated, unsatisfied customer. After each two-minute scenario, a short group discussion was held to determine how the situation could have been handled differently, what words should have been exchanged in order to avoid conflict and how a peaceful agreement could have been reached.

One of the participants, Pierce Arnold, a sophomore from Petersburg, Ind., said he believed the program was worthwhile because "almost anyone can find themselves in the situations discussed tonight."

Bromley said the program succeeded in "helping residents discover new ways out of conflicts and learn new alternatives."





[bonnie higginson]

College Head Bonnie Higginson stands in front of White Residential College. Higginson also worked as a professor in the College of Education.

the head on white's shoulders

higginson serves as mentor for residents of white college

story by kelsey quade

photograph by caitlin dunnagan

Before the Wellness Center...before the shoe tree...before the residential college system...Dr. Bonnie Higginson was a student at this very university. As an undergraduate student in the 1970s, she lived in Regents and Hester. However, she could not remember any programs or traditions related to the dorms during those years. She said there was no sense of community and the dorms were "just a place where you lived." Now, the residential colleges have traditions and programs like Hallo-White, White College's annual Halloween party and Richmond's Penny War to raise money for the Relay for Life.

In the fall of 2000, Higginson, a professor of early childhood and elementary education, became the College Head of White Residential College. She had watched the development of the residential college system, which began in 1996, and realized that she wanted to work more closely with students. At the time, there were openings for College Heads in Richmond, Elizabeth, Regents and White. Higginson said she chose White because she had lived in Regents and to her, it held a bit of nostalgia.

As a College Head, Higginson's duties included meeting with new students, working directly with students with academic problems and encouraging them to stay in school. She also tried to get students involved in the residential college, develop leadership skills and connect with faculty like herself outside of the classroom.

Higginson said the hardest part of her job was managing her time between teaching, working at White and other activities. She considered teaching to be her morning job and residential college work her afternoon and evening job.

Amber Bromley, a senior from West Frankfort, Ill., said she saw Higginson in the building almost daily. "If she's not at Alexander Hall, she's always here," Bromley said.

Higginson was also known for her involvement with the residential college. "How many college heads do you know that would play flag

football for their college?" Brittany Fentress, a senior from Paducah, said.

Teresa Lopez, a sophomore from Valladolid, Spain, said Higginson "really cares about what she does, about students and about White College."

Having watched the residential college system grow, Higginson saw the benefits of it. She said it created a smaller community within the larger university, allowed students to get more involved on campus and to become more aware of students from other places and created a sort of family on which students could rely. Patrick Wallace, a sophomore from Hawesville, described Higginson as a "second mother" to residents of White, emphasizing the family-like atmosphere in the residential college.

Higginson also had ideas for improvements to the residential college system, including adding more common space, a classroom and an eating area to each building. She said she also would have liked to see more programs to meet the needs of all students and that would pull people in. She said the ten-year anniversary of the residential colleges made her understand "what it means and what it can mean for the future."

Not only was Higginson's accessibility obvious to students like Lopez, but her fun-loving spirit also stood out. Wallace said that one of his favorite memories of her was at a banquet during Resident Advisor training when the RAs began a game of basketball using paper wads and Higginson was the captain of his team. Bromley said Higginson was fun to work with and each year she allowed the RAs to go to her house to swim and took them out to eat.

Higginson did everything she could to work hard for White College and to reach out to students. She said she enjoyed seeing students gain leadership skills and she felt that she got more from being a College Head than most students got from her. Higginson summed up her enjoyment of being a College Head, saying, "It's just fun."




COLLEGE COURTS



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

[college courts]



Fast Facts

Opened: Former Murray State president Dr. Ralph Woods began the creation of housing for married couples. Four of the apartment buildings were built in 1961, four more in 1963 and another four in 1966, for a total of 144 one- and two-bedroom apartments.

Residents: Married students, single parents, graduate students, faculty and undergraduates over 21 years old can live in College Courts.

"I like living in College Courts because it has the amenities of living on campus and being a commuter. I have a kitchen in which to cook and the ability to park like a commuter in some areas of campus."

[rachel southerland, a senior from melber]

"I like living in College Courts because it has a kitchen and private bathroom."

[richard collins, a senior from owensboro]

"Perhaps the best thing about living there is that, unless a big basketball game is going on, you'll have a parking spot right in front of your apartment. And you get to control your own air conditioner and heater. That's always a plus in this Kentucky weather."

[elizabeth scott, a senior from clarksville, tenn.]

photograph by kaia fox

Ronnie Walls visits a housemate's room in the Sigma Phi Epsilon house. Walls was one of eight men who shared the residence, located near Sparks Hall on Main Street.



moving up, moving out

juniors and seniors enjoy privilege of off-campus housing



story by amanda smith
photographs by leah wood

After two years in the residential colleges, many students were eager to say goodbye to sharing a room, cooking in a community kitchen and sleeping in a twin bed.

Though university rules stipulated that students not commuting from home must live on campus while classified as freshmen and sophomores, juniors and seniors had the freedom to choose where to live. For many, the privilege of living off-campus meant more space and less hassle.

Whitney Bush, a junior from Winchester, lived with two roommates in a house on Olive Street. To Bush, the best part of living off-campus was avoiding parking problems. "I like being able to come and go as I please without worrying about having to find a place to park," she said.

Better parking wasn't the only perk of moving out of the residential colleges. Katie Fowlkes, a graduate student from Collierville, Tenn., and one of Bush's roommates, added having more space to Bush's list of the advantages of living off-campus. "I needed to be able to walk from room to room," she said.

The roommates had done much work to make

all of the rooms in the house their own, from putting up curtains to painting walls. "Now that I have my own house, I'm not as prone to go home for the weekend," Fowlkes said.

Bush and Fowlkes were not the only students who enjoyed having a place to call their own. Magan Lee, a junior from Crestwood, also made the decision to move out of the residential colleges during her third year at school. She chose a one-bedroom apartment at Gettysburg, located about a mile from campus.

Lee also enjoyed the extra space that came with a new home and the privacy of living alone. "If you want company, you can call somebody, but if you don't want company, you always have a place to go," Lee said.

Moving off-campus and gaining some privacy didn't always mean renting an apartment. Ronnie Walls, a senior from Marion, Ill., chose the Sigma Phi Epsilon house as his residence. Unlike many students living off-campus, Walls shared a bedroom with one roommate and a house with seven other men. Since he practically lived on campus, he, too, appreciated that he never had to worry about parking.

Above left: Whitney Bush and Katie Fowlkes enjoy the luxury of having their own bedrooms. "It's nice to have your own space," Bush said.

Above: Heather Ashworth spends time in the office of the house she shares with her mother. Ashworth had her own bedroom and living area on the second floor of the house, while her mom lived primarily on the first.

"I like being able to come and go as I please."

[continued on page 136]

Magan Lee shows off the food in the freezer of her apartment at Gettysburg. She enjoyed having space to store and cook her own meals. (Photo by Caitlin Dunnagan)



Jonathan Lemmon, a junior from Columbia, stands on the balcony outside his bedroom. Lemmon and his roommate enjoyed weekly dinners with friends at their house, located near downtown. (Photo by Amanda Smith)



[continued from page 135]

However, Walls also said that living off-campus changed his social life. "I feel like I see the same people all the time, which isn't bad being in a fraternity," said Walls. "However, when I walked into Winslow one day, I was amazed at all of the people I saw that I never see on a regular basis."

Heather Ashworth, a senior from Mt. Vernon, Ill., agreed living off campus made social gatherings a little more difficult. Still, she said that she would not trade her house, located just outside of the downtown area, for anything.

Ashworth came into her off-campus housing differently than most students. Because she transferred to Murray State from a trade school in St. Louis, Mo., she was already classified as a junior upon her arrival. "I was apprehensive about moving into the dorms after living on my own in St. Louis," she said. As a liberal arts major with an emphasis in woodworking, Ashworth also needed a home that would allow her a place to keep her tools and her workshop.

To solve this problem, Ashworth and her mother decided to be roommates. "Mom

was in the Army for 20 years and was getting ready to make a career change," she said. It was convenient for the two to move to Murray together. "I couldn't have a better roommate."

Ashworth's favorite feature of her house was the quiet atmosphere. "I've hung out in the dorms and I don't think I could sleep there," she said. She also enjoyed being able to have a cat, which was not allowed in the residential colleges, and the freedom of having a kitchen and a full-sized refrigerator.

Though most students living off-campus said there were a few drawbacks to moving out of the residential colleges, they agreed the advantages far outweighed these difficulties. However, many also said they would not have appreciated living off-campus properly if they had not first lived in the residential colleges. "You should live in the dorms at least two years and know what it's like," Fowlkes said.

Still, neither she nor her roommates missed the residential college life. Said Bush: "Once you move out, you can't go back."

Katie Fowlkes removes a batch of cookies from the oven at her house. She and her roommates appreciated having a kitchen to call their own.
(Photo by Leah Wood)



molly wilmurth profile
foreign languages
tim haas
dr. ken bowman
rotc
martin battle profile
fencing
faculty recital
trevor mills profile
meal management
cyber cave
presidential lecture



Sarah Peddie, a freshman from Mt. Vernon, Ind., Parker Timmons, a junior from Centralia, Ill., and Jenna Boyd, a sophomore from Portageville, Mo., dissect a plant in Biology 222: Botany. The class dissected plants to determine flower types by looking at the shape, size and location of its insides.

[academics]

non-traditional

single mother shows she is more than just a student

story by rebecca spurlock
photograph by caitlin dunnagan

The typical age for a college student is somewhere around 18 to 22 years old. However, some students do not fall in this age range. Molly Wilmurth was one of those students. Wilmurth, 35, was a non-traditional student from Paris, Tenn., and an elementary education major.

When Wilmurth was a senior in high school, she knew she wanted to become a teacher. However, a bad experience with a kindergarten Sunday school class changed her mind. During her first two years of college, Wilmurth went through physics engineering as well as child psychology before finally settling on, and graduating with, a degree in occupational safety and health.

Three years ago, while working at Mother's Day Out, a pre-school in her hometown, she decided she wanted more out of life. Wilmurth, who came back to school in the spring of 2006, finally decided that she wanted to pursue her original goal—becoming a teacher. Another reason she decided to come back to school was to gain the experience and the prestige of going away to college to earn her second degree.

Wilmurth is also a single mother of two children. "It is not too bad," she said of being a mother and a student. "More than anything I want my going to school to be a learning experience for my kids, too. I love that my girls get to see me studying and doing homework." She said she really wants her daughters to be involved in the fact that she is going back to school, so they have been to a class, gone to meetings and visited the library with her. "I want them to see where I am going so they can get an idea of what my life away from them is like."

A non-traditional student, as defined by

Wilmurth, is a person who "takes another direction in life." She said that when she was an undergraduate student, she would look at non-traditional students completely differently than she does now. Wilmurth has been trying to become more involved in the activities offered on campus. She teaches an ACT prep course and is also involved with the Adult Students in Education organization.

She said it wasn't weird for her to be around college-age students, but it was hard "finding a niche in an environment that is seemingly more geared for the student of typical age." Wilmurth said it was interesting to see other students talking about how hard classes were or how strict the professor was. She said she absolutely enjoyed working together with the students, even if they might be humoring her. "I've found a common ground with many of them," she said.

"Being a non-traditional student is not exactly like I thought it would be," Wilmurth said. "When I first started classes last spring I was dreading hearing the students complaining about being tired from partying too much or being so stressed out. I considered them to have no concept of stress until they had a mortgage to pay and children to take care of. But more than anything I have realized that stress is relative and while what is stressful to one may not be stressful to another, it does not change the fact that the person is experiencing a problem in their life and they need understanding."

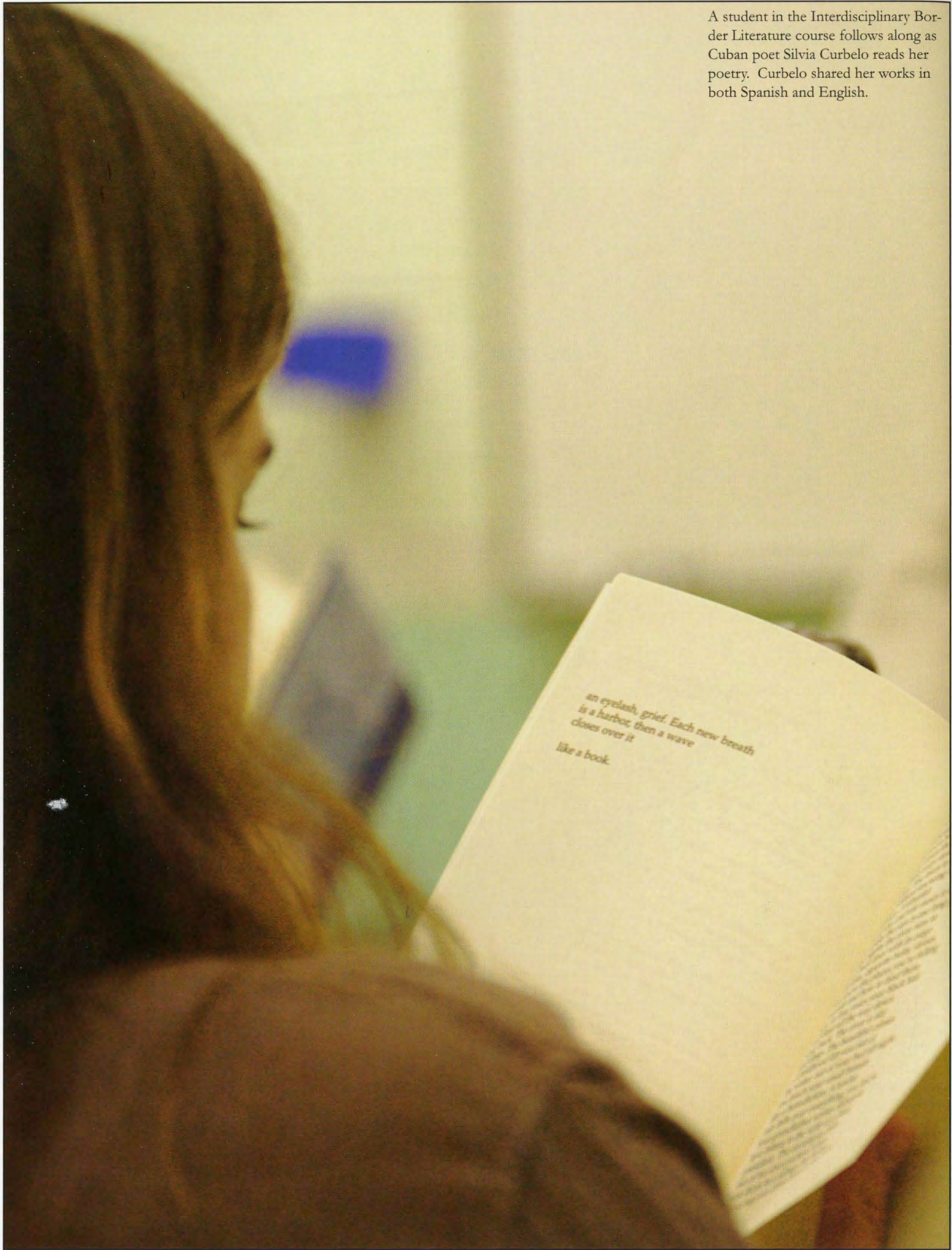
Wilmurth said she would advise undeclared freshmen to have confidence and explore any options they have available, and in doing that, find a way to do something they love.



Taking a break from her busy schedule, Molly Wilmurth poses in the Quad with her daughters. Avery, 8-years-old, and Annabel, 3 years-old, enjoyed spending time on campus with their mom.

[molly wilmurth]

A student in the Interdisciplinary Border Literature course follows along as Cuban poet Silvia Curbelo reads her poetry. Curbelo shared her works in both Spanish and English.



*an eyelash, grief. Each new breath
is a harbor, then a wave
closes over it
like a book.*

invisible borders

literature class combines aspects of two different cultures

story by kelsey quade
photograph by kaia fox

"Apply sound standards of information gathering, analysis and evaluation to reach logical decisions; understand the importance of and engage in ethical behavior and responsible citizenship; demonstrate mastery of a chosen field of study."

These are three of the ten characteristics posted in classrooms and hallways across campus for which students were encouraged to strive. However, in the fall, professors in the department of English and philosophy and the department of modern languages recognized a need for students to be aware of the various aspects of other cultures and proposed this goal of international awareness should be added to those already in play. The result was the Interdisciplinary Border Literature course offered in the spring.

The course, taught by professors Ann Neelon and Mica Howe, combined Spanish and English classes on Tuesdays to discuss contemporary Mexican-American, Cuban-American, Puerto Rican-American and Dominican-American fiction, poetry and other genres of literature. The class of about 25 students was split between the English half and the Spanish half on Thursdays for separate discussion groups, Neelon explained.

"This allows the English side more time to do creative writing exercises inspired by the texts we're reading," she said. "It allows the Spanish side more time for conversational practice."

Audrey Ferguson, a senior from Murray, enrolled in the course and said the Tuesday class tended to focus more on poetry, while the Thursday class focused on history.

Two professors teaching one course simultaneously was also a situation that added to the unique subject matter of the class. Cassidy Norvell, a senior from Poole, said Howe and Neelon acted as a "tag team." It was interesting to have two professors because students could experience two perspectives, giving the course more depth, she said.

To expose students to other cultures, the

professors invited Cuban poet Silvia Curbelo to speak to the class. On Feb. 20, Curbelo talked about growing up in Cuba during the beginning of Fidel Castro's reign and about hearing about mass executions, political prisoners and the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

"Of course, we called it the American Missile Crisis," Curbelo said.

Curbelo shared some of her own poetry, including a poem set in her hometown. She gave short introductions to each piece and read some in Spanish and some in English, speaking of a theme of duality, which she felt described Cuba during hard times.

Norvell found Curbelo's poetry enlightening. She said students wondered why the poetry was not entirely Spanish and about Cuba.

"Because she grew up in Cuba, it is in every line even though it's not explicitly defined,"

Norvell said.

Ferguson enjoyed Curbelo's poetry because it was written in English but told about Cuban culture.

"She wrote from a vantage point of a writer where her status as a minority wasn't all of who she was," she said.

The Interdisciplinary Border Literature course was a new development for the University. Its goal, to raise students' international awareness, was clear to both Neelon and Norvell.

"Before this course, students may have painted all Spanish-speaking immigrants with the same brush," Neelon said.

Norvell also saw many benefits to the course.

"It raises awareness of different cultures within the United States, not just Caucasian," she said, "but also immigrant communities."

Ferguson recognized the benefit of the course for those majoring in both Spanish and English.

Said Ferguson: "It's covering a group of literature that tends to fall through the cracks. Because it is a border class, it is a joining point between the United States and other cultures. It allows the gap to be crossed."

"Because she grew up in Cuba, it is in every line even though it's not explicitly defined..."

the family man

tim haas shares his life experiences with students

story by kelsey quade
photographs by kaia fox

Every year in the United States, approximately 4,000 children are born with Down Syndrome, a condition that occurs when an extra 21st chromosome is present, according to healthnewsflash.com. Those with Down Syndrome often have a smaller physique and specific health-related problems, such as heart defects, auditory and visual problems and mental retardation.

Despite the many obstacles that can arise from such a condition, many individuals with Down Syndrome lead very healthy and fulfilling lives. One such individual was 39-year-old Tim Haas. Haas visited the SED 300: Education of Students with Disabilities classes on March 1 as a guest speaker. This was the ninth time he had spoken to classes at the University.

Pam Matlock, a professor of adolescent, career and special education and friend of Haas' family, introduced him to her class and explained that his condition was unexpected. However, his family was always careful to allow him to develop his own talents, she said.

One such talent was evident in Haas at an early age. Despite never having an art class in school, Haas' artistic abilities were obvious. His parents hired a private tutor to give him lessons. He shared some of his artwork with the SED classes, including an oil painting of a farm scene he made for his father, a still life sketch of a fruit basket and a painting of fruit he made for his grandmother.

After showing his artwork, Haas shared with the class a scrapbook of his life and interests that his mother had helped him make. His scrapbook was composed mostly of pages about his family.

"The theme of family always comes through very clearly in Tim's presentations," Matlock said. "Even his favorite musical groups and TV shows have the focus of family."

Heather Rittenhouse, a junior from Louisville who attended one of Haas' presentations, said, "I think that family is so important to Tim because through everything, he has had to rely on his family."

Haas also told the class about his school days. He attended classes at Lone Oak Middle School from age 3 to age 21, when he graduated. Throughout his education, he was a member of a self-contained classroom that was never mainstreamed into general education courses.

Angela Wilson, a sophomore from Paris,

Tenn., who also listened to Haas' presentation, said she thought inclusion was essential for school-aged children with or without disabilities. "As much as children in typical classrooms need to be exposed to their peers with disabilities, children with disabilities need to be exposed to those without," she said.

Haas, who grew up with several brothers, was always treated just like any other member of the family. This played a role in forming his happy-go-lucky personality.

Haas displayed this personality when he discussed his many activities and jobs. When he was in school, he was a member of 4-H and Boy Scouts. As an adult, Haas participated in Special Olympics events such as softball, 50-meter dash and his favorite sport, bowling. Haas took part in the Buddy Walk in 2006, a promotional event held by the Ups and Downs program at Kentucky Oaks Mall in Paducah. He also took part in the TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) and KOPS (Keep Off Pounds Sensibly) programs in order to lose weight.

Haas' presentation spoke volumes about the importance of family and the abilities of those with disabilities to live life just as anyone else would.

His visit to the class taught students the importance of exposure to such individuals, which is something many people never experience in their lives. It was a lesson that could not be learned from a text book.

These students, who were preparing to be teachers, especially benefited from Haas' visit. It was important for them to be exposed to individuals with disabilities in order to overwrite preconceived notions about the nature and characteristics of such people.

"Tim does more in his one-hour presentation to break down the walls separating those with disabilities from the general population than I can do in the entire semester," Matlock said.

Rittenhouse agreed. "As college students, we are not really exposed to students with major disabilities, so I think it is important that we get to hear some stories and meet some individuals so that we expand our knowledge of people and the world around us," she said.

Wilson found Haas' story inspiring. "Tim had such a warm personality," she said. "It was obvious that he appreciated life and the opportunities he was given."

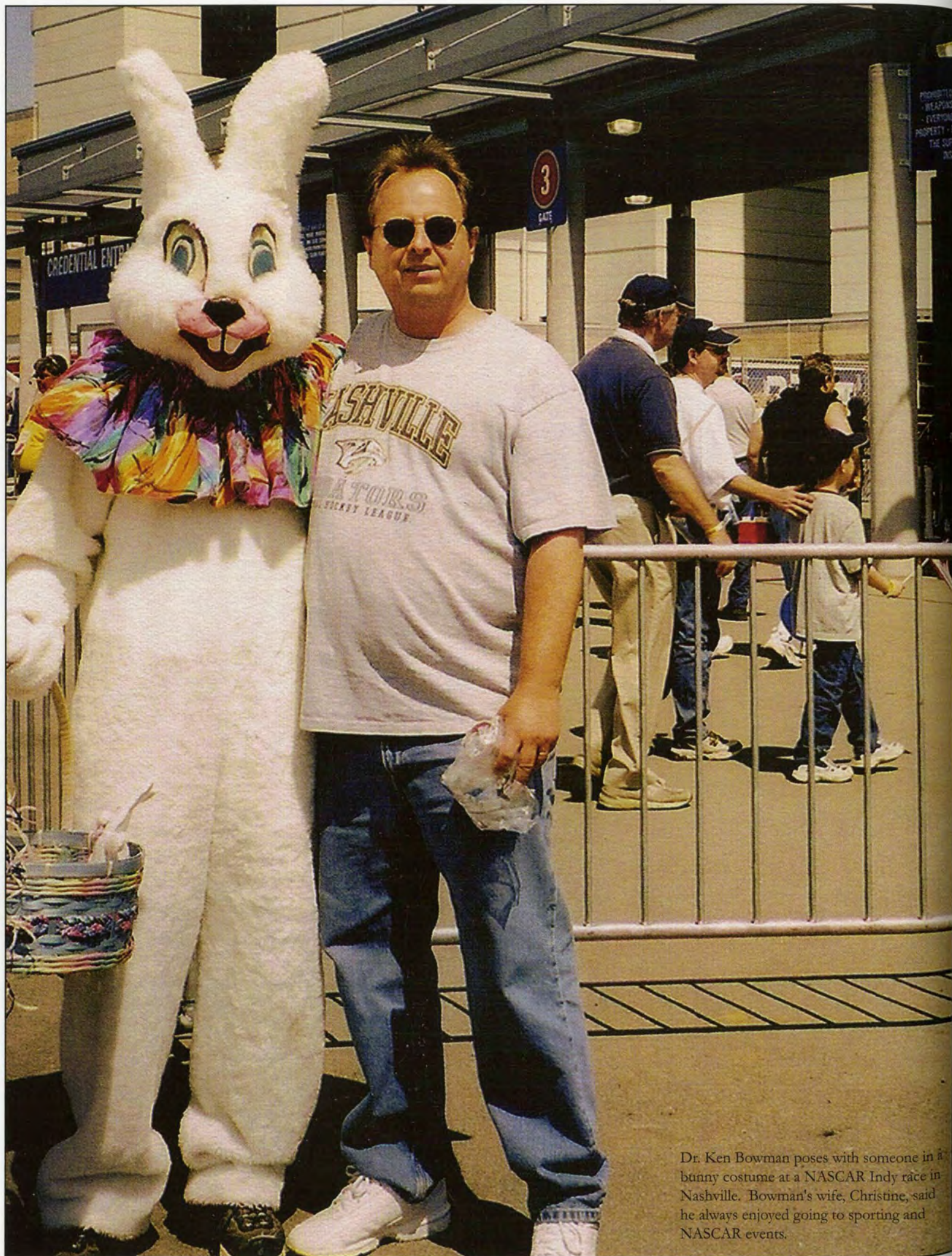
"Tim was an inspiring individual in all aspects..."

Dr. Eric Umstead, professor in the adolescent, career and special education department, holds an oil painting Haas created for his father. Always keeping others in mind, Haas said he donated his artwork to local charities.





Dr. Eric Umstead and Dr. Randy Dunn present Tim Haas with a blanket featuring Alexander Hall and a ball cap. Dunn, president of the University, stopped by to listen to Haas' speech, which was the ninth one he had given on campus.



Dr. Ken Bowman poses with someone in a bunny costume at a NASCAR Indy race in Nashville. Bowman's wife, Christine, said he always enjoyed going to sporting and NASCAR events.

losing a friend

death of dr. kenneth bowman shocks campus community

story by kelsey quade

photographs courtesy of christine bowman

Thousands of lives are lost each year to heart attacks, and millions are affected by these losses. Colleagues and students alike of Dr. Ken Bowman were among these millions following his death on Sunday, Oct. 1.

Bowman's death came as a shock to many people who knew him. Dwayne Driskill, head of the department of agricultural science, said it was as if a family member had died, not just a faculty member, because of the closeness of everyone in the department.

"You just never think this will happen," David Ferguson, associate professor of agriculture, said. His office was next door to Bowman's in the Oakley Applied Science building, and he said despite their lifestyle differences, they shared a lot.

"It makes you see first-hand how fragile life can be," Jay Morgan, professor of agricultural education, said. Morgan worked in the same department as Bowman for more than 10 years and talked to him almost daily.

Bowman's students were also shocked to learn about his death. Tony Brannon, dean of the school of agriculture, sent a mass e-mail to all agriculture students the day Bowman died.

On Monday, many of the agriculture professors went to Bowman's classes and gave them the news.

Justin Gossett, a sophomore from Hopkins County, said his class with Jim Davis lacked the usual jokes and conversations because of the loss of such a well-liked professor.

Bowman was not merely a professor of agribusiness economics. He was also the former College Head of Springer-Franklin Residential College, co-founder and co-editor of the journal of undergraduate research *Chrysalis*, sponsor for the Agribusiness Club and advisor to 93 students—one of the school's largest advising loads. It was clear to both students and colleagues that Bowman always put students first.

It was his concern for students that stood out to those who knew him. Driskill said Bowman was student-oriented and willing to go the extra mile to create a better learning environment. Ferguson said he treated students in the Agribusiness Club like his own children. "Students loved him and you could tell," he said.

Adam Totty, a sophomore from Clinton, said Bowman took time to relate to students. John Hammond, a junior from Bloomfield, said he was "a very giving person...he was just committed."

Another of Bowman's traits that stood out was his good sense of humor. Gossett said Bowman used to sit in his small "red tomato" car, as Brannon described it, in a parking lot with his foot on the brake while reading a newspaper or magazine. People would wait for him to pull out of the space and get mad when he did not.

Janel Going, a sophomore from Nashville, Ill., said Bowman's comedy "made class interesting." One of her favorite memories was him talking about wanting to play bass guitar in a rock band.

Bowman was also known by his students and colleagues for his intelligence. Brannon said he not only had book sense, but common sense as well. Morgan agreed, saying he was "a good classroom teacher."

"He was extremely good in theoretical economics and mathematics," Ferguson said.

"I wouldn't doubt his abilities in anything," Gossett said.

Brannon said the students, faculty and administration did three main things to preserve Bowman's legacy. Bowman was known for wearing sports jerseys every Friday, so people in the agriculture department began doing so after

his death. They worked with the Toys for Tots campaign as well because Bowman had been so dedicated to the foundation. The department also established a fund for agricultural excellence in his name in order to

promote scholarship among agriculture students. Along with those tasks, faculty members stepped up to take on the heavy load Bowman had carried. His advisees were dispersed among the faculty, as were his classes.

Bowman's death taught one main lesson to those who knew him: life is short. Totty said it taught him to "take the opportunities and not to procrastinate." Ferguson said he learned to appreciate his family and Brannon said he learned to not take things so seriously.

"He touched a lot of lives," Driskill said.

Ken Bowman was popular, respected, intelligent and witty. His death was seen as the loss of a dedicated teacher, researcher, advisor, colleague, role model, mentor and above all, a friend.

"It makes you see first-hand how fragile life can be."

Dr. Bowman, his wife, Christine, and Dr. Jane Hall work on a Homecoming float for Springer-Franklin Residential College. Dr. Bowman served as College Head of Springer-Franklin for several years.



serving and protecting

rotc provides students with training for future careers in army

story by rachel ruehling

photograph by caitlin dunnagan

Early in the morning, students slept nestled in their warm beds, wasting the hours away. But students in the Reserve Officer's Training Corps didn't have time to stay in bed sleeping; they were out in the early morning air preparing for the day they would enter the Army.

"It's a privilege being in the military," said Christina Aleman, a senior Cadet Battalion Commander from Liefkin, Texas. "You learn great leadership from being in ROTC. There's a sense of honor, and I'm giving back to my country by serving and protecting the people of our country."

The ROTC program on campus had only five cadets when it first began, but now has nearly 80 cadets. In 1997, the program was discontinued for eight years before being reinstated in November 2004, after which time it has grown tremendously. Three lieutenants conditioned in 2006 and were enlisted in the Army. Two of them graduated in December and were placed on active duty in January.

Members of the training program participated in events ranging from parking details to challenges across Kentucky with other ROTC groups. "In ROTC, we have different battle drills, physical fitness exercises and Racer Challenge," Aleman said. "We're busy every weekend doing something with the ROTC."

"For me, the Army and ROTC helped me become less shy. I'd learned new skills, faced new challenges, met new friends and found out I was doing what I loved," Aleman explained. "Also, I like roughin' it in the outdoors!"

ROTC was not your typical pass or fail class. Taking any classes with the program during the freshman and sophomore years and not committing to the Army was an option; for juniors, committing time and service to the Army was a must.

"It's kind of like a sorority," Aleman said. "If you decide to go into the Army and continue with the ROTC for the next two years, then we put you in a spot we think you could fill and become successful in."

Being in ROTC was very serious business; a

good GPA and a minimum of 30 credit hours would move a student up along the ranks of the organization. Physical fitness and good character were important qualities that soldiers needed to have.

Many students, like Aleman, led the ROTC troops in their different activities. Ryan Oliver, a senior from Metropolis, Ill., was a staff member in charge of training groups during different exercises. He had to teach everyone how to act under an attack and how and when their troop needed to be moved easily and quickly.

Being a part of the military was no laughing matter to these students. There was honor instilled in the practice of becoming stronger and smarter, as well as knowing what to do in any situation. While in the Army, a troop could be called on at any time with less than two hours to pack all the essentials needed for wherever they were sent.

During classes held on Thursday mornings, students learned different drills and techniques. One activity was learning to pack a backpack with everything needed for the days they would be gone. There was a specific way to organize everything from clothing to soap to packaged food, and it had to be done quickly and easily.

Females were not discouraged from taking part in the military program. Three top females were contracted to join the Army after graduation. Five women attended the class every Thursday, and over a dozen were signed up for the physical fitness class at the Wellness Center.

Hard work and dedication were only some keys of motivation for the ROTC members. Belief in doing what was right and what was good for the United States was the motivation of the ROTC.

"This is the best decision I've ever made," Aleman said.

Being at school and trying different things can motivate students into finding a true calling. For Aleman and the many courageous students of the ROTC who had found their calling, the future was ready for them.

"There's a sense of honor, and I'm giving back to my country by serving and protecting..."

Laura Wontor, a sophomore from Paducah, trains for combat on campus. Practicing for real-life situations prepared ROTC students for many types of battle.





[martin battle]

Martin Battle stands at the head of one of his classrooms, preparing to lecture his students. In his first year, Battle taught a variety of classes, including American National Government, British Government and Contemporary Political Systems.

a new face on campus

british professor quickly becomes a favorite

story by stephanie harrington

photograph by caitlin dunnagan

Although he was a new professor, Martin Battle had already begun generating some buzz on campus during his first year. As an assistant professor of comparative politics from Britain, he said his claim to fame is simply his accent.

Battle grew up in London, and originally came to the United States as a study abroad student. He studied in Milwaukee where he fell in love with America and its culture. Because of his study abroad experience, he decided to come back to the United States for graduate school, and now has hopes of becoming an American citizen.

However, coming to the United States was not easy for Battle, even before the increased airport security and immigration laws. When he first arrived for graduate school, there was a mix-up with his visa. His original visa said he was a preacher; however, he was only here to attend classes. Once he brought the error to the attention of the Embassy the problem was easily sorted out. Battle also said since he was here with a visa, there were more hoops that he had to jump through because of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. He said he did not mind the hoops, and even further, he understood and agreed with many of them. Battle said any time he had a problem, the Embassy was easy to work with and always willing to help.

By the end of the year, Battle had completed his graduate program, field exams and his dissertation to earn his doctorate. He decided on the topic for his dissertation, which examines political campaigning in Britain since 1964, six years ago. "It was only sporadic at first, but there was an 18-month period where I worked on it solidly," he said. "It has been tedious, but I feel as though all of the hard work is paying off."

Battle said he thinks most of his students

continue to come to class simply because of his accent. After the popular series *Friends* aired an episode with the character Ross pretending to have a fake British accent, Battle's former students immediately asked if his accent was real, and it became a joke. Students said he opened his classes with a joke about Ross's fake accent and his own real one. Battle explained that he could identify with Ross because of academics, but Chandler was always the jokester, something Battle strived to be. However, he quickly added, "I would never marry Monica, though. She's too much of a pain!"

Battle may have come from Britain, but he is very pro-American. He loves the culture and has a passion for teaching politics.

"I'm really enjoying being here," he said. "The students have been really good to me."

He also uses his knowledge of British politics to help students make connections between different styles of democratic government, which he said is very useful. He also loves America's favorite pastime, baseball, and helped cheered the St. Louis Cardinals to their World Series victory.

Many students who study abroad return feeling the experience changed their lives, and Battle is no exception. He spoke of his study abroad experience fondly, and said he encourages everyone to take advantage of the different travel programs available.

"There were other students from London in my program in Milwaukee, and they all stuck together," he said. "I decided to go out on my own, though. I was in America to learn about Americans. Why stay with people who knew about London?"

By deciding to move to the United States, Battle brought students an entirely new view of government and culture, broadening not only his horizons, but theirs as well.

to fence, or not to fence?

fencing classes enable students to learn an exciting sport

story by nichel raeling

photograph by caitlin dunnagan

"En Garde!" is a phrase involved in sword fighting most everyone had heard from movies. However, sword fighting, or fencing, wasn't traditionally used for movies. It originated centuries ago as a way to prepare men in times of wars and duels. However, on Monday nights, students in the fencing class were not preparing for wars or deadly duels; instead they were participating in a sport that held their interest and had much history.

Wearing the traditional white suits and fencing masks, students aligned with their dueling partners and practiced their various techniques using the foil, a light sword used in training; a saber, a heavier sword used to cut above the waist; and an epee, a heavier sword like the foil that counts by hitting the other person first.

"I started fencing my freshman year in high school with a few friends," said Stephanie Hagen, a senior from Kildeer, Ill., president of the Fencing Club and student in the fencing class. "I've always loved sword fighting movies and wanted to learn how to fight."

The fencing class was small, but unique. Different people from different walks of life

participated, hoping to make new friends and learn a new sport. The class was held in a tiny room in Carr Health Building that had stairs leading up to it. Down below, students could be heard talking before class, but it wasn't your typical conversation. Instead, they were asking each other if they had remembered their gloves and saber.

The Fencing Club met right after classes every week, so being involved in this unique club was ideal for students who just wanted to meet new people.

"Once students learn what they're doing, they are able to come back any time and fence"

"Once students learn what they're doing, they are able to come back any time and fence," said Hagen. "We try to travel to different states to compete in tournaments that are

at our own level of ability. The class meets once a week, but students still get a crash course in all the weapons."

The fencing class was a great way for students to spend their evenings while doing something the world has been practicing for hundreds of years. If a student wanted to surround themselves with a mass of unique but cool people, fencing was the right choice.



Practicing proper technique, two students duel in their Monday night fencing class. While fencing required a great deal of concentration, most students agreed that it was a fun and exciting sport.



A. Matthew Mazzoni, piano, Emily Wasson, clarinet and Scott Erickson, oboe, play during the faculty recital showcase. Many faculty members performed in the recital to raise money for the music department's scholarship fund.

sound check

music faculty pleases diverse audience at recital

story by kelsey quade

photograph by caitlin dunnagan

Music has played a huge role in the world for thousands of years. It has brought people together in praise, sadness and celebration. It stirs emotions from pure joy to agonizing heartache. People have always made, listened to and enjoyed music.

Randall Black, professor of music, said music has always been a part of his life. "I can't remember a time when I didn't sing," he said.

The effects of music have also found Todd Hill, jazz ensembles director. "Jazz has taken me all over the world as a performer," he said. "It's a passion."

Several faculty members had a chance to display their love for music at the annual Faculty Showcase Recital held on Sept. 24 to raise money for the music department's scholarship fund. More than 100 music lovers sat in a dimly lit auditorium, anxiously awaiting the performance of Murray State's talented faculty. The audience was comprised of the young and old, music majors and non-music majors, all there for one reason—to be swept up in sound.

The recital included instrumentalists as well as vocalists—some new and some returning faculty, as well as guest performers. New members included Todd Hill, piano; Sue-Jean Park, violin; Bret Smithey, bass-baritone; and Emily Wasson, clarinet. Returning members included Sonya Gabrielle Baker, soprano; Randall Black, tenor; Stephen Brown, piano; John Dressler, horn; Scott Erickson, oboe; John Hill, percussion; Elizabeth Johnson, mezzo-soprano; A. Matthew Mazzoni, piano; Stephanie Rea, flute; Richard Scott, piano; and Eric Swisher, trumpet. Special guest performers were Laura Hill, cello; Matthew Morris,

bassoon; Nancy Steffa, viola; and Scott Thile, double bass.

The mixture of instrumental and vocal pieces displayed the various aspects of faculty talent and cooperation between members. Stephanie Rea, professor of music, said the recital allowed the audience to be exposed to a higher level of musicianship than they might be used to, in addition to raising money. She said the variety was a demonstration of the amount of dedication and time it takes to be a successful musician.

The types of music played at the recital varied from opera to tribal; some pieces were long, some were short. "Alerte! Alerte!" performed by Sonya

[...all there for one reason—to be swept up in sound.]

Gabrielle Baker, Randall Black and Bret Smithey, accompanied on piano by Stephen Brown, was a vocal piece. "On a Clear Day," performed by Todd Hill, Scott Thile and John Hill was a jazz piece.

Todd Hill explained his choice of music, saying, "I chose 'On a Clear Day' because it hasn't been done to death! I hoped it would spread a little bit of joy—just that—joy." Stephanie Rea and A. Matthew Mazzoni performed "Hamburger," a duet chosen for its contribution of variety, its length and because Rea always tries "to choose something pleasing to the audience."

Members of the audience left the auditorium talking about their favorite pieces and congratulating the performers as they passed. Randall Black said in his own judging of the success of a performance, "What matters is communication. .if the audience feels something that the composer tried to communicate then the performance is a success."

feather-brained

student tames feathered hunters of the forest

story by kelsey quade

photograph courtesy of trevor mills

Many hobbies exist in the world—stamp collecting, knitting, horseback riding, and of course, falconry. Who could forget about falconry?

Trevor Mills, a senior wildlife biology major from Payneville, couldn't. Falconry had been his passion from a young age, and he owed it all to Jean Craighead George's fictional book *My Side of the Mountain*. After reading the story about a young boy who lived in the woods for a year, adopted a baby falcon, raised it and trained it to hunt for him, Mills was hooked. He knew he wanted to get involved in falconry.

Mills described falconry, the act of hunting with birds of prey such as eagles and hawks, as "a great sport" and "an excuse to get out in the wild... away from civilization." He said not many people get the chance to see larger birds in the wild catching prey; they just see them on the side of the road or gliding through the air.

Even as a full-time student, Mills managed to find time to devote to falconry. If possible, he would spend at least an hour a day, every day with his bird, getting it accustomed to being around him and training it to hunt and return. Mills would often spend at least three days a week taking the bird out into the woods to do "exercises" using a reward system. If the bird returned from a hunt, it was rewarded.

Of course, falcons aren't your everyday pet store animals. In order to obtain and tame the large birds, Mills had to set up different types of traps in the woods, some consisting of nets, others of small nooses in which the birds' legs get caught and also by using live bait such as mice and snakes.

"They're visual hunters," Mills said as he explained the trapping system and why live bait is used.

After a bird was caught, its weight was lowered through a starvation system. Mills did this by keeping the bird in a dress sock, its feet wrapped with tape. He would carry the bird to class this way in order to make it accustomed to being with him and hearing people's voices. "I got some pretty weird looks from professors," Mills said.

When enough time passed for the bird to be hungry, he would begin feeding it so it would learn where its food source was. He then trained the bird to jump from one point to another, starting with short distances and progressing to longer and longer ones. Once a bird could accomplish this act, Mills would begin teaching flying exercises in the woods, or even on the Quad.

Mills said the ease at which a falcon is tamed depends on the species. "Some are calm and some are hyper," he remarked. After mentioning the aggressiveness of eagles, he said that he had seen men decked out in full-arm iron chains and fencing masks as protection from the birds because of their tendency to peck at eyes. However, falcons and hawks in the wild are not as dangerous as some people may believe. Mills said the birds are typically scared of people and that it takes a lot of time, dedication and patience to train the birds to be accustomed to crowds.

Along with training birds on his own, Mills participated in various falconry events where he was able to meet many new and interesting people who shared the same interests. He has aspired to participate in events held each year by the North American Falconers Association. NAFA holds field meets involving falconers from around the world who join together to share their interests, products and techniques. In the past, people from nations as far away as Saudi Arabia have attended the field meets to share their knowledge and to sell products such as gold perches to the falconry enthusiasts, Mills said.

While others would rather sit at home and clean coins or crochet booties for their dogs, Trevor Mills dared to follow his own advice. "Get out, get involved, and keep an open mind. There's a whole world out there," he said. He adopted an extraordinary hobby—falconry—in hopes it would someday be a part of his future and his career. After all, as William Blake said, "When thou seest an eagle, thou seest a portion of genius; lift up thy head!"

Trevor Mills holds a trained bird out for display. Mills had to wear a thick, heavy glove to protect his hand and arm from the sharp talons of the birds he worked with.





In the Blackburn Science Building, Trevor Mills sits next to a display case that features information on different species of birds. In addition to participating in falconry, Mills studied about different species of birds and other animals as a wildlife biology major.

[trevor mills]

LeAnne Wolfe, a senior from Morganfield, helps prepare the picnic meal in her meal management class. Students were assigned tasks by the meal's manager to ensure it was prepared and served efficiently.



food for the mind

students in meal management class gain knowledge and experience

story by kelsey quade

photograph by caitlin dunnagan

A good meal can bring friends, family and even complete strangers together. Food is used in so many ways because it is one thing everyone understands. It is a universal language, just spoken with different accents.

Students enrolled in the meal management class offered by the department of wellness and therapeutic sciences in the fall had the chance to experience the process of preparing and serving meals with different themes. The themes included Mexican, Japanese, Halloween, Mediterranean, picnic, Tuscan and Greek.

Meals were prepared on Mondays and served on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. in the Oakley Dining Room in Room 205N of Oakley Applied Science throughout the semester. Prices, which included the meal, drink and either a regular or light dessert, ranged between \$6 and \$7 depending on the cost of production. The money raised through the program went to the department and was used to purchase supplies such as tablecloths and dishes.

Meals had been served to the public for more than 20 years, said Kathy Timmons, director of the dietetics program, who has been involved with the program for 12 years. The class was usually offered during the fall semester and occasionally during the spring semester, depending on enrollment size.

The class was a requirement for those majoring in nutrition, dietetics and food management and an elective for those majoring in family and consumer science education. Each week, a team of two students served as the Oakley managers. The students were responsible for the planning, production and advertisement of the meal.

Timmons said the teams had to first choose a theme. They then had to plan a menu, which Timmons had to approve, and price the necessary ingredients. Sara Jane Cunningham, a senior dietetics major from Murray, said she and her

partner went to a grocery store in order to price foods and figure out how to extend the recipes for their Halloween meal to serve 30 to 40 people. The teams then had to do a nutritional analysis of the menu and make sure it met nutritional guidelines. For example, meals, excluding dessert, could not exceed 1,000 calories. Teams also created a production sheet with a time frame for the meal and delegated responsibilities for the other students in the class.

Next, they set up the Oakley Dining Room in accordance with their theme. Students advertised their meals by designing and publishing a web

page. Some also chose to create flyers to display around campus. Christi Baron, a senior dietetics major from Louisville, who was co-manager of the picnic meal, said the word got out "a lot more by mouth" as well.

Timmons relied on a grading sheet with different aspects of the meal in order to determine their success. These included creativity, budget, nutrition, efficiency and organization. Students were also required to write a reflection and evaluation of their meals. But grades were not how students typically evaluated their own success. Baron said she determined her meal to be a success if there was nothing left on customers' plates. Cunningham said it depended on profits, if the meal came out on time and if the food was good. Both Baron and Cunningham said customers, which included faculty, staff, students and people from the community, were generally very honest about the quality of the meals.

Timmons said the meal management class offered both learning and experience to students. "It puts them in charge," she said.

Cunningham said the class was "not really all about cooking." She said it was about time management and teamwork.

Said Cunningham: "People don't give enough recognition to people who work in food services."

"People don't give enough recognition to those who work in food services."

a cave without bats

tsm students have the chance to share their knowledge with eager high school students

story by kelsey quade
photograph by sara bynum

When Murray State was given the opportunity to choose a program of distinction in 2004, there was no hesitation about adding telecommunications systems management to the list of possible fields of study. The program was unique in its interdisciplinary nature: half business and half science and engineering technology. Because technology constantly advances and consistently becomes a larger part of society, TSM was optimal due to its in-depth focus on the creation of networks of communication through modern technology.

As a new program at the University, it was necessary for information about TSM to be spread. One such method of doing so was the creation of CyberCave. CyberCave was a program produced by the TSM department for high school students interested in the various aspects involved with technological communication. The program took place primarily during the summer, when a week-long camp was held. It also took place during the fall and spring semesters, as schools would contact the TSM department with interest in sending groups such as clubs or classes. The semester programs consisted of two hours of activity in the Cave, located in the Industry and Technology building, during which time the students worked to build a specific module chosen by their teacher. The summer programs consisted of various groups working to build a telecommunications network and connect it to other groups' networks.

During both semester and summer sessions, participating students were assisted not only by TSM faculty, but TSM students as well. The TSM students were responsible for creating modules for the participants to build, testing equipment in the Cave and maintaining the network facilities. They also acted as frontline instructors for CyberCave sessions, working with groups to help them understand networking and the various aspects involved with telecommunications.

"Maintaining and building is work," said John Hart, telecommunications systems manager and main instructor for CyberCave, of creating a telecommunications network. "The students have to know every bit of the network."

Dana Howard, marketing specialist for the TSM department, recognized that basic computer skills and an understanding of how society works were essential. "Everything is based on telecommunications," she said. "Data is created every day, and every company has telecommunications involved."

When working with CyberCave, TSM students made it a point to treat the participants as partners or professional employees, which helped make the program fun and created a comfortable,

family-like atmosphere. Such an atmosphere also helped TSM students to learn along with the participants, develop speaking and organizational skills and build self-confidence.

Allan Hendricks, a senior from Henderson, worked as a counselor for CyberCave sessions and found great enjoyment in doing so. "This has been a great experience for me to be able to convey the information I know in a practice environment before I move into the 'real world,'" he said.

During the semesters, when high school groups were not attending CyberCave, TSM students stayed busy by maintaining its infrastructure, planning for future groups and updating networks and programs.

"The infrastructure in this room is bigger than that of some companies around here," Hart said.

CyberCave provided high school students and TSM students alike with the opportunity to expand their knowledge of telecommunications and networking. It allowed students to use their creativity and modern tools to create something relatively invisible and push the limits of technology.

"The infrastructure in this room is bigger than that of some companies around here..."



Students from the Center for Telecommunications Systems Management work to maintain the infrastructure of CyberCave. These students aided high school groups with building modules during class sessions in the Cave.

daughter of destiny

former pakistani prime minister benazir bhutto shares her story of struggles

story by kelsey quade

photograph by carlin dumagan

The stage was set and all were silent as the first female leader in the Muslim world stepped up to the podium in Lovett Auditorium on March 13. Benazir Bhutto, a former Prime Minister of Pakistan, was the honored speaker for the annual Presidential Lecture, sponsored by the Student Government Association.

Bhutto began by giving the audience a glimpse into her personal life. She was the daughter of former Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and as a child, she had no intentions of becoming a political leader. As a young woman, she attended Harvard University and Oxford University. She recalled Richard Nixon's Watergate scandal and how she saw the "awesome power of people to change policies, leaders and the course of history."

Her education outside of Pakistan also taught her that one person could make a difference. While attending Oxford, she joined the Oxford Union, a debating society at the university. Through the Union, she learned to debate, eventually leading to her interest in politics. She decided to run for president of the Union, but was told that as a woman and as a foreigner, running for office would prove to be an unwise decision. Bhutto, however, proved the skeptics wrong and won the election. Upon completing her work at Harvard, she returned to her family's home in 1979. Less than a year later, her father was murdered because of his push for democracy. This proved to be the catalyst for Bhutto's decision to take on the role of prime minister.

"I was determined to fulfill his dream of a democratic Pakistan," she said.

Bhutto described the history of violence in Pakistan, the current situation in the nation, its connection to the United States and how it affected her as a leader. She described Pakistan's history as an ugly, painful one because of the actions of the Taliban, later known as Al Quaida. Bhutto said she was saddened by the view of Pakistan as a "safe haven for terrorists against the civilized world." The conflicts taking place caused the government to halt its support of education, housing and other aspects of general life, and Bhutto was determined to change that fact. After she was elected prime minister, Bhutto took action to set up schools, recruit teachers, make electricity accessible and establish centers for women's protection.

"Every baby girl has the same rights to a future as every baby boy," she said.

Bhutto, however, was removed from office in 1990 after an overthrow by military regimes. She was forced out of Pakistan after receiving countless threats to her life and the lives of her husband and children.

In the interest of further enlightening the primarily American audience to the events in Pakistan, Bhutto explained how the Taliban had been paying its soldiers more than the president of Afghanistan was paying soldiers and how the Pakistani military regime had signed a peace treaty with the terrorists.

"A Pakistan led by the military will only isolate my people further from their government," she said of the replacement of the former, short-lived democracy with a dictatorship.

Bhutto concluded her speech by discussing the existence of terrorist actions, including murders and bombings, throughout Pakistan. She said she intended to go back to Pakistan to live in order to better support her nation's fight for democracy and her people, whom she made a point to always put first.

"Terrorists feel they cannot operate functionally when Pakistan is under a democracy," she said. "I believe they fear democracy because they fear the people."

Bhutto's speech opened the minds of those who listened. In speaking about Pakistan, she spoke about the world, and the impact one person can have on a large number. As a female in a Muslim nation, Bhutto's career choice was seen as uncommon. As a leader, her support of democracy was viewed as radical.

Kyrie McLemore, a sophomore from Clarksville, Tenn., recognized the intense struggles Bhutto had to endure as a leader. "I definitely see hardships for her as a Muslim woman and leader," she said. "Radical Islam certainly does not allow women to be anything but obedient slaves, and to overcome that in her country as well as follow in her father's footsteps in a male-dominated profession is amazing. Her passion for her country and its people was very apparent throughout the whole speech."

Brittany Goodenough, a junior from Huntsville, Ala., was also able to see the difficulty that faced Bhutto in her position. "She seemed to be genuinely devoted to Pakistan and its people," she said. "I think if being a progressively-minded leader were as difficult in the States as it is in Pakistan, we'd have a different caliber of politician pushing legislation."

["I was determined to fulfill his dream of a Democratic Pakistan..."]

Speaking to a large group of students, faculty, staff and community members, former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto tells her story of struggle and triumph. Bhutto served as prime minister for several years before her removal from office by the military regimes in Pakistan.



football
tailgating
cross country
volleyball
rifle
women's soccer
rebekah clay profile
women's tennis
men's tennis
rowing
men's golf
women's golf
cheer & dance
dunker profile
rodeo
equestrian
women's track & field
men's basketball
billy kennedy profile
women's basketball
baseball
intramural sports
club sports



photograph by kaia fox

Krista Llewellyn, a sophomore from Island Lake, Ill., tries to get the ball around a defender. The women's soccer team finished the season with a record of 5-10-4, and was just one goal away from making it to the OVC playoffs.

[sports]

story by ben amberg
photographs by caitlin dunnagan

Hopes were high for the Racers on the gridiron this year as head coach Matt Griffin took over. However, those hopes were soon overshadowed by a disappointing one-win season.

The lone win of the season came as a 59-40 victory over Indiana State. Only days after the end of the season, Griffin told reporters he was "excited to get going (on next season)." While some coaches would dwell on mistakes made and opportunities lost, Griffin insisted on looking toward the future.

At the close of the season, Griffin was already anticipating the strengths of the next year's team. After a year of experience, his core of 37 true



Defensive end Blake Booth, a sophomore from Lexington, Tenn., catches the ball and attempts to avoid a tackle during a game against Southeast Missouri State. Booth played in the Racers' first nine games, starting five straight games on the defensive line, before being injured.

freshman was a close-knit group.

The Racers had a number of talented returning players. One of Griffin's hopefuls for next season was Shane McClesky, a freshman wide receiver from Woodstock, Ga. McClesky was originally red-shirted and came out of red shirt status to play in four games. He recorded one touchdown along with 81 receiving yards.

"No secret here I'm a big fan of Shane McClesky," Griffin said. "He's a physical kid and he's a competitive kid."

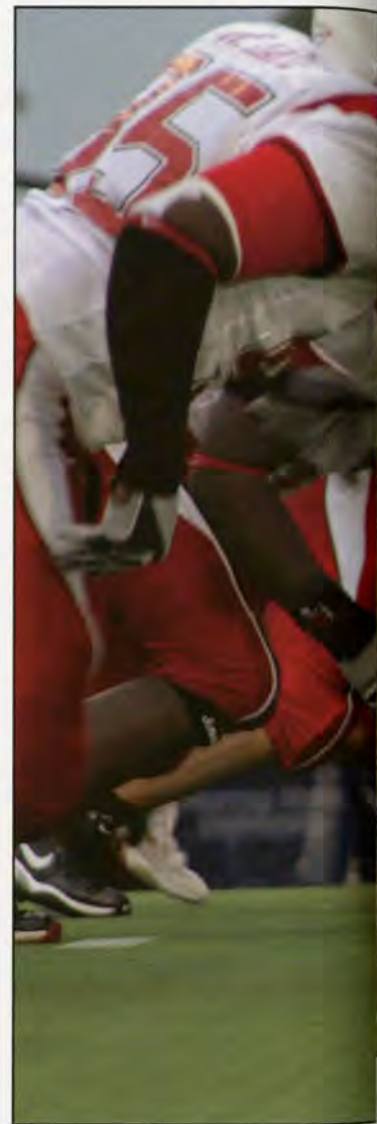
Linebacker Tamar Butler was another great young player. A freshman from Murfreesboro, Tenn., Butler was one of only two Racers to record a sack, an interception and a fumble recovery for the season. Butler also led the team in total number of tackles for a loss. At the conclusion of the season, Butler was named to the OVC-All Newcomer Team.

Although Griffin had several players planning to return for the next season, recruiting was still important for the Racers. Recruiting was an area Griffin had excelled at in years past. According to a press release from Murray State Media Relations, Griffin, as head coach at University of Tennessee-Martin, took a program that had not won an OVC season game in six years to a record of 6-5 (4-4 in the OVC) in only his second season as coach. Griffin hoped to have similar success in his second season with the Racers by bringing in a talented recruiting class to fill in some gaps.

Griffin planned to spend the winter months bringing in new players who could help overcome the problems of the previous season. "By adding new talent you seem to immediately energize any team, especially the older guys," Griffin said.

"This season has been tough on us," Griffin said. "We red-shirted 15 kids and started 13 true freshmen. We were not far off. We had tremendous support from our administration and [Athletic Director Allen] Ward, and our facilities are excellent. I can't wait for next year."

The Racers had high hopes for more success in the next season, and hard work in the interim would be crucial. The team was determined and focused both on and off the field. They looked forward to next season's opening game against the University of Louisville.



Players get ready to face off at the line of scrimmage in a game against Illinois State. The Racers lost the game, which was held during Family Weekend, with a score of 14-35.

football

[racers look to future after disappointing season]



@ Missouri
@ Tennessee State
@ Indiana State
vs. Illinois State
vs. Tennessee Tech
@ Jacksonville State

L 7-47
L 15-25
W 59-40
L 14-35
L 14-20
L 17-49

vs. Samford
@ Eastern Illinois
vs. Southeast Missouri
@ Eastern Kentucky
vs. Tennessee-Martin

L 7-33
L 10-20
L 17-24
L 21-51
L 14-42

results

tailgating

[the start of a new tradition]



story by adam farmer

Tailgating has been a staple of college football for as long as most people could remember. However, until this year, tailgating was something that students at Murray State had to do without. With endorsements from everyone from the football coaches to the Student Government Association, students were given the hope that tailgating would be an activity they could participate in at Murray State this year. Head football coach Matt Griffin personally endorsed tailgating prior to the start of the season through Murray State's newspaper, *The Murray State News*.

Tailgating seemed to be an opportune time to get students out before games. With a new coaching staff, the enthusiasm for the season climbed to a point not seen in previous years. This excitement seemingly sparked the tailgating atmosphere that had been lacking for so long.

The first home game of the season brought in heavy showers that hindered the efforts to get tailgating started off right. Even with this slight drawback, there were still numerous faithful fans willing to get soaked for the cause.

"With the rain, I didn't think attendance would be that high," Mason Carter, a junior from Marion, said. "But after seeing everyone out there with high spirits, things seemed to go really well, and the rain even made it kind of fun."

As the season progressed it seemed as though the bulk of tailgating was done by fraternities. These organizations drew consistent crowds to the events, and all seemed to enjoy themselves. Leonard Matlock, a junior from Memphis, believed that "it was a great step toward Greek unity. It seemed as though all Greeks who participated got along very well, and all just wanted to have a good time."

Greeks were not the only ones participating in tailgating festivities; there were numerous other students and alumni who could be found in attendance during each home game. Even for those who were not fans of football, tailgating had something to offer.

Had a stressful week? Come out and relax. Hungry? There were always grills fired up. Bored? There was always some sort of game to be found. In addition to all of these benefits, tailgating provided a great way to meet new people.

Wesley Deer, a senior from Evansville, Ind.,

said that he met several people through tailgating that he would not have met otherwise. "You're surprised about all the different people you meet and hang out with," he said.

It would be safe to say that tailgating was here to stay. Though it hadn't grown as quickly as most would like, attendance steadily improved. With this growth, enthusiasm of fans, particularly that of students, had also increased. It was unsure how long it would take for the tailgating atmosphere to reach the level seen at other schools, or if it ever would. However, that was not really the point for most students. They did it because it was a fun way to meet people, have a good time and support the Racers.



Chris Muncie, a sophomore from Winchester, prepares hot dogs for Sigma Phi Epsilon before a football game. Several families, community groups and student organizations tailgated before games this year. (Photograph by Leah Wood)



Murray High School cheerleaders practice stunts outside Roy Stewart Stadium Nov. 18. The team was among the fans who tailgated before Murray's last football game against Tennessee Martin. (Photograph by Elaine Kight)

cross country

[new season, new obstacles]



Men's Individual Best Times

(Races are 8K)

Jack Findley	29:39.25
John Gorey	26:34.29
Steven Hart	27:22.13
Andrew Smithson	28:46.38

Women's Individual Best Times

(Races are 5K)

Whitney Breitenstein	21:39.47
Taylor Crawford	18:59.82
Kristen Heckert	18:07.27
Kristen Miller	19:45.45
Lindsey Neeley	19:47.10
Kristen Reffett	20:41.21
Amber Thomas	24:18.37
Andrea Trinkle	21:05.65
Alaina Zanin	19:14.11

*individual best times are from various races

With a new season came new obstacles for both the men's and women's cross country teams.

Despite the discontinuance of the men's indoor and outdoor track teams, the number of runners for the men's cross country team remained low. With only four runners for the season, men's cross country was unable to compete as a team in invitational races, but as individuals, they performed impressively.

John Gorey, a junior from Brentwood, Tenn., led the men. He posted the top finish for the Racers at the Belmont Invitational in Nashville, Tenn., the Screaming Eagle Invitational in Clarksville, Tenn., the SEMO Invitational in Cape Girardeau, Mo., the Evansville Invitational in Evansville, Ind., and the Ohio Valley Conference Championships in Clarksville, Tenn. Gorey finished the OVC 5-mile race with a time of 26:52.

Continually placing third for the Racers was Andrew Smithson, a freshman from Louisville. He said Gorey was the most motivational member of the team, and that its size didn't matter.

"The small team doesn't make a huge difference," Smithson said. "With only four guys we got to know each other really well. It's hard just because we can't score as a team in meets, but it's nice because all the guys get along really well."

The women had several more runners, but they were at a slight disadvantage because of the age of their team's members. With only one returning runner, things seemed like they might not be so good for the women's team; however, the freshmen class of runners was a strong one that caught the eye of many of their competitors.

"I don't think that our being a young team has hurt us at all," Taylor Crawford, a freshman from Owensboro, said. "I think it gives the program a bright future because, in my opinion, we are all strong runners and we all have something to add to the team."

The women's team finished the season strong by winning the division title at their second and third meets, the Screaming Eagle Invitational in Clarksville, Tenn., and the Greater Louisville Classic.

Alaina Zanin, a sophomore from Kenosha, Wis., understood the importance of her individual times for the season, as well as the importance of the team.

"Being able to grow and learn as a team is so important," she said. "This year was a little rough at first, but we all meshed really well by the end of the season. The team really becomes your family."

Zanin spoke fondly of assistant coach Greg Storm and what he saw in the young team.

"He knows when to push us and he knows when to back off," she said. "He believed in us when no one else would. Greg sees diamonds, where anyone else would see stones. He knows we just need a little polishing and we will really shine."

And shine Zanin did. She began the season

a little slow because she was recovering from an iliotibial (IT) band injury, but she overcame her injury and went on to place 20th in the University of Evansville Invitational in Evansville, Ind. She placed third at the SEMO Invitational in Cape Girardeau, Mo., and 18th in the Ohio Valley Conference Championships in Clarksville, Tenn. Zanin was Murray's top finisher in Clarksville. This accomplishment combined with her other personal achievements throughout the season secured her a position in the NCAA Regional meet.

"Running is hard, but well worth every drop of blood, sweat and tears," Zanin said.

Kristin Heckert, a freshman from Sugar Grove, Ill., was another key individual for the team. She placed second overall at the Greater Louisville Classic, and had multiple top finishes throughout the season. She was also Murray's first place finisher several times. After winning the Screaming Eagle Invitational, Heckert was named the OVC's Female Cross Country Athlete of the Week.

Even though it seemed hardships might cause many setbacks for both the men's and women's cross country teams, both teams remained positive about their seasons and accomplishments, shown in the success they each had.



Running on rough terrain, Kristen Heckert, a freshman from Sugar Grove, Ill., participates in a cross country race. Heckert won the 5K race at the Screaming Eagle Memorial Classic with a time of 19:22.



Alaina Zanin, a sophomore from Kenosha, Wis., participates in the OVC Cross Country Championship. Zanin placed 16th of 80 competitors at the tournament, held in Clarksville, Tenn.

volleyball

[team unites for a successful season]



vs. Idaho State
 vs. North Florida
 vs. Appalachian State
 @ Kent State
 vs. North Carolina State
 vs. Chicago State
 vs. Alabama A&M
 @ Memphis
 vs. DePaul
 vs. Central Arkansas
 @ Eastern Illinois
 @ Southeast Missouri State
 @ Austin Peay
 @ Tennessee State

W 3-1
 L 1-3
 W 3-2
 W 3-2
 W 3-0
 W 3-1
 W 3-0
 L 0-3
 W 3-0
 W 3-0
 W 3-1
 W 3-1
 W 3-2
 L 1-3
 vs. Morehead State
 vs. Eastern Kentucky
 vs. Southeast Missouri
 vs. Eastern Illinois
 @ Tennessee Martin
 @ Tennessee Tech
 @ Eastern Kentucky
 @ Morehead State
 vs. Samford
 vs. Jacksonville State
 vs. Tennessee Martin
 vs. Austin Peay
 OVC Tournament
 vs. Southeast Missouri

W 3-0
 W 3-1
 W 3-2
 W 3-0
 W 3-1
 L 1-3
 L 1-3
 L 0-3
 W 3-0
 L 0-3
 W 3-2
 W 3-2
 W 3-2
 W 3-2
 L 2-3



Members of the volleyball team gather in a huddle to pep each other up prior to a home game. The women had 14 wins to only three losses at home.

story by rachel rueliling
photographs by caidin dunnagan

The women's volleyball team pushed themselves to the limit this season. With a record of 19-8 and 23.48 digs per game, the team proved they had something to set themselves apart from other college teams.

"The girls who played this season were incredible," Coach David Schwepker said. "They worked very hard, but more than that, they had amazing chemistry as a team. The girls played hard for each other."

Skilled players on the floor, dedication and hard work proved these women could face almost any competition with confidence. The team placed third in the Ohio Valley Conference field of teams.

"Being on a team that's successful makes playing even more enjoyable," Holly Jansen, a senior from Leopold, Mo, said. "Feeling like a part of a hard working family at any school is motivation beyond belief."

The team was honored with a place on the NCAA Division 1 digs-per-game list. Heather Norris, a sophomore from Naperville, Ill., was ranked in the national top 10 for the large number of digs per game she contributed. Norris finished out the season ranked as number six in the nation.

"Practicing every afternoon, the girls gave up all their free time for this team," Schwepker said. "When I saw female athletes giving up their free time in college for the sport they love, I knew that I had the best team around, despite what awards we won or what our final scores of the season turned out to be. I am proud to have worked with such amazing, selfless players."

Jansen agreed that the team's camaraderie helped them. "The girls on the team really got along well this season," she said. "Coach Schwepker went out of his way to make this season unforgettable."

The team's Rick Kern Percentage Index also earned them a spot in national rankings. They placed 11th in the Midwest Region among other top colleges in the nation.

"Being placed among other colleges such as Eastern Kentucky University, Tennessee State and Morehead State was an honor to our team," Schwepker said. "We could play them, learn from their techniques and compete against them."

Despite all the accomplishments of the past season, Schwepker said he wants to improve the coming year's offensive team. He said the defense, which helped lead the team to success, would return for the next season while the offense would be reworked to ensure even more success.

Schwepker partially credited the fans for the volleyball team's success. "I think the fans we had this year were awesome," he said. "The team and I are working hard not to let them down next season!"



Left outside hitter Alyssa Groves, a sophomore from Fairview Heights, Ill., spikes the ball over the net. Having quick eyes and fast hands were essential to the team's success.

[racers make 27th ncaa appearance]

rifle



@ Tennessee-Martin	4,556 (1st)	vs. Alaska-Fairbanks	4,641 (2nd)
@ Ole Miss Invitational	4,604 (2nd)	@ Gamecock Invitational	4,600 (2nd)
@ Tiger Open	4,628 (2nd)	@ Newkirk Invitational	4,649 (1st)
vs. Austin Peay & Jacksonville State	2,294 (2nd)	Roger Withrow Tournament	4,617 (1st)
vs. Tennessee Tech & Jacksonville State	4,612 (2nd)	NCAA Sectionals	4,622 (3rd)
vs. Morehead State	4,591 (1st)	OVC Championship	4,577 (2nd)
@ University of Kentucky	4,594 (2nd)	NCAA Championship	4,565 (8th)

story by ben amberg
photographs by elaine kight

The Murray State rifle team was very proud of its successful season. New head coach Morgan Hicks led the squad to a second-place finish at the Ohio Valley Conference Championship and helped them earn an invitation to the NCAA Rifle Championship.

A 2004 Murray State graduate, Hicks finished 12th as a member of the United States Olympic team at the 2004 Games in Athens, Greece. She served as Murray State's rifle team's assistant coach last season.

"It's really amazing," Hicks said. "It's a great honor, and I'm very privileged to be here." Hicks also competed internationally at the World Championships in Zagreb, Croatia and at the World Cups in Munich, Germany, and Milan, Italy.

This year the rifle team welcomed back eight shooters from last year's squad, which placed fifth at the NCAA Championship last year. The team included All-Americans Bryant Wallizer, a sophomore from Little Orleans, Md., and Cameron Hicks, a junior from Roy, Wash. Wallizer and C. Hicks led the Racers this season, shooting a combined average of 1156.43 and 1156.36, respectively.

After a disappointing opening day in the OVC Championship, the Racers came roaring back the second day to finish second in the conference championship, shooting 2324 out of a possible 2400.

Following his impressive performance in the OVC Championship, C. Hicks was named to the All-OVC First Team in Smallbore with a score of 573 out of a possible 600. He was also named to the All-OVC Second Team in Air rifle with a 585 out of a possible 600.

Wallizer's performance in the OVC Championship also helped him to All-OVC honors. Wallizer was named to the All-OVC First Team in Air Rifle with a 586 out of a possible 600.

This season marked the 27th appearance for Murray State at the NCAA Championships. They placed eighth in the tournament, which was held at Fairbanks, Alaska, on March 9 and 10.

The Racers shot a 2303 out of a possible 2400 in air rifle to finish with a total of 4565 out of a possible 4800 for air rifle and smallbore combined.

Individually in air rifle, Wallizer fired a 586 out of 600, C. Hicks shot a 576, Dan Belluzzo, a junior from Chisholm, Minn., shot a 571 and Brandy Boucherie, a senior from Henderson, fired a 570.

Wallizer earned All-American Second Team honors in air rifle, while C. Hicks was named to the All-American Second Team in smallbore.



Brandy Boucherie, a senior from Henderson, adjusts her rifle for the next phase of competition during the Roger Withrow Invitational. Boucherie was one of two women on the rifle team.

Joe Shane, a sophomore from Poplar Bluff, Mo., competes in the Roger Withrow Invitational hosted by the Racers. The Racers finished first, ahead of Jacksonville State University, in the competition.

soccer

[team misses ovc playoffs by one goal]



@ Middle Tennessee State

@ IUPUI

@ Southern Mississippi

vs. Indiana State

vs. Arkansas State @ Martin, Tenn.

vs. East Tennessee State @ Martin, Tenn.

vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff

@ Lipscomb

vs. Evansville

@ Eastern Illinois

L 0-3

L 0-2

L 0-4

L 0-2

W 3-2

T 2-2

W 11-0

W 5-0

L 1-3

T 1-1

@ Southeast Missouri State

vs. Austin Peay

vs. Tennessee Tech

@ Morehead State

@ Eastern Kentucky

vs. Jacksonville State

vs. Samford

vs. Tennessee Martin

vs. Oklahoma State

L 0-2

W 2-1

W 2-1

L 0-4

T 0-0

L 1-2

L 1-2

T 0-0

L 0-4



Krista Llewellyn, a sophomore from Island Lake, Ill., battles for the ball against an Evansville defender. Llewellyn played forward and midfielder for the Lady Racers. (Photo by Kaia Fox)

story by adam farmer

The soccer team had its ups and downs this season, missing the Ohio Valley Conference tournament by a single goal. Had the Racers scored in their final game of the season instead of tying with a score of 0-0 after a double overtime, they would have advanced to the playoffs.

The OVC playoffs were decided based on a point system. The team needed three more points to advance, and could get those points only through winning a game. On any other day a shut-out in 110 minutes of soccer would have been something to brag about, but on October 21, it just wasn't enough.

The most positive point of the season came in the team's game against Arkansas-Pine Bluff, said forward Rebekah Clay, a sophomore from Bloomington, Ill. The Racers dominated the entire game and won with a score of 11-0. Clay said the game "was a great morale booster for the team" because it was not a game that just had a few girls carrying the team; every player contributed a significant amount and carried her own weight.

Martin Son, a senior from Benton, worked as a trainer for the soccer team and said the Racers seemed to play as more of a team on the field than many of the other teams of which he had been a part.

"It was impressive to see how well all the players truly get along," he said.

Clay, a forward, and Laura Oppegard, a senior defender from Lexington, were named to All-Ohio Valley Conference teams. Clay was named to the first team as a forward while Oppegard was named to the second team as a defender.

According to Murray State Media Relations, Oppegard served as the quarterback of the Murray State defense and had an outstanding senior season, keeping the Racers in games with her quickness with the ball and leadership.

The team bid farewell to six seniors at the close of the season. These seniors were goalie Heather Jones, from Canton, Mich., goalie Annie Fortier, from Bowling Green; defender Laura Oppegard, from Lexington; forward Tara Eby, from Germantown, Ohio; defender Lauren Blessinger, from Evansville, Ind., and defender Leslie Whitehead, from Johnson City, Tenn.

"The team worked hard this season and I am

excited for the future of Murray State soccer; and looking and looking for much bigger things next year," Head Coach Beth Acerman told Murray State Media Relations.

"I'm getting a good look at the other teams in the conference," she said. "I feel like I have the blue-collar mentality to work very hard and I know that the players want it. It's not like we're miles away from where we need to be. We're very close."



Defender Jen Peios, a junior from Pickering, Ontario, attempts to block a Tennessee-Martin player from the ball. The two teams ended up tying the game, contributing to the Racer's season record of 5-10-4. (Photo by Caitlin Dunnagan)



[rebekah clay]

Rebekah Clay dribbles the ball down the field. Clay received recognition for her accomplishments on the soccer field by being named to the All-OVC First Team.

team player

soccer team member shows her strengths on and off the field

story by adam farmer

photograph by jonathan burris

In her first two years on the soccer team, Rebekah Clay, a sophomore from Bloomington, Ill., made her presence known on the field. Keeping her focus on the team, Clay rarely mentioned what she wanted for herself. Instead, she focused on what she could do to better the team and help them produce a win.

"I love Murray," Clay said. "It was a great decision to come here. It's a much more friendly place than the other schools I visited. I know I'm supposed to be here on the soccer team."

Clay credited the camaraderie of the team for allowing her to enjoy soccer so much. "Our team doesn't have cliques like other teams I've played for in the past," Clay said. "We all seem to mesh really well together. From what I have observed on other teams, we are probably the most welcoming and inclusive team at the collegiate level."

Not only did she enjoy playing soccer at Murray State, but also attending college here. She said she loved the southern hospitality and spending time with Christ Ambassadors, a campus ministry with which she was very involved.

A favorite moment of the season for Clay was the team's overtime victory versus Tennessee Tech. The game was tied 0-0 in its second overtime when Clay was given the opportunity to score against the Golden Eagles. "I just remember the corner kick coming to my right, so I stuck my leg out, went for it and hoped for the best,"

Clay said.

Clay sent the ball to the back of the net, giving Murray State a win over Tennessee Tech. When she made the goal, the first thing she heard was the cheer from her friends in Christ Ambassadors who came out to support her.

Others noticed Clay's talent, too. She was named Ohio Valley Conference's Freshman Player of 2005 and to the All-OVC First Team as a forward. She also received the OVC Medal of Honor for achieving the highest GPA in a conference-sponsored sport with a 4.0 GPA.

Although the women's soccer team worked well together, the season was not as much of a success as they had hoped it would be. The team missed the OVC playoffs by one goal, something they were very upset about. "We worked hard, we knew our potential," Clay explained. "It just seemed like we couldn't get where we wanted. I feel like we let our seniors down by not making the playoffs."

Without missing a beat, Clay spoke of how optimistic she is about the upcoming season. "I love our new coach, and I think she'll be great at bringing other people in," Clay said.

Good recruitment was a must-have for the Lady Racers as they were losing six seniors at the end of the season. "We plan on only getting better and increasing our standards," she said.

After a rocky start, the Murray State women's tennis team found its winning stroke as it claimed the Ohio Valley Conference Championship and lost only a single match in conference play.

The Racers were fortunate to have five starters from last season's squad, which had finished with a 13-10 overall record.

Among this season's eight-member squad were senior leaders Casady Pruitt, from Merrillville, Ind., and twin sisters Anna and Rachel Lask, from Louisville.

Anna became the winningest woman in Murray State tennis history when she broke the record for all-time wins, then broke the record for career doubles wins less than two weeks later. Some of her other honors included OVC Player of the Year, OVC Athlete of the Week and All-OVC team honors for four years.

Anna's sister Rachel also had a successful season. She obtained the No. 2 position in Murray State women's tennis history for all-time doubles wins, only behind her sister Anna. She was also able to earn All-OVC honors for the third time in her collegiate career.



Anna Lask, a senior from Louisville, braves the cold temperatures while practicing with her teammates. The tennis team opened its season on Jan. 19 against East Tennessee State University. photo by paul holladay

Pruitt was also able to earn All-OVC honors. Like her senior counterparts, Pruitt climbed Murray State's all-time doubles wins list to No. 10, with 81 wins.

At the O'Reilly OVC Conference Championship, the Racers knocked off No. 3 seeded Eastern Illinois and No. 1 seeded Samford to claim their sixth OVC conference championship.

"I'm so proud of these young ladies," head coach Connie Keasling said. "We love Murray State. To be able to represent the university and the community as OVC champions is an incredible feeling."

Anna said it was an anxious wait for her as she and her teammates competed in the tournament. "I had butterflies in my stomach while I was waiting," she said. "We wanted this so bad for four years. I knew we would do it."

By clinching the conference championship, the Racers earned an automatic bid to the NCAA National Tournament. The women faced No. 16 seeded Vanderbilt University in the first round of the tournament on Friday, May 11, in Nashville, Tenn.

"To be able to go to the NCAA tournament is very exciting and a tremendous feeling," Keasling said on GoRacers.com. "I'm tickled to death with the seeding and to be playing Vanderbilt in Nashville."

However excited the team was, they faced a challenge with Vanderbilt. The women had only practiced with each other for three weeks prior to the tournament, which Keasling said she felt contributed to the Racers' 4-0 loss to the Commodores.

Although Vanderbilt had 3-0 leads at No. 1 and No. 2 doubles, the Racers came back to win several games. Lyndsay Ottosen, a freshman from Allen, Texas, and Pruitt won two games to pull within 3-2 of the Commodores, but their opponents came back by winning five games for an 8-2 win at No. 2 doubles.

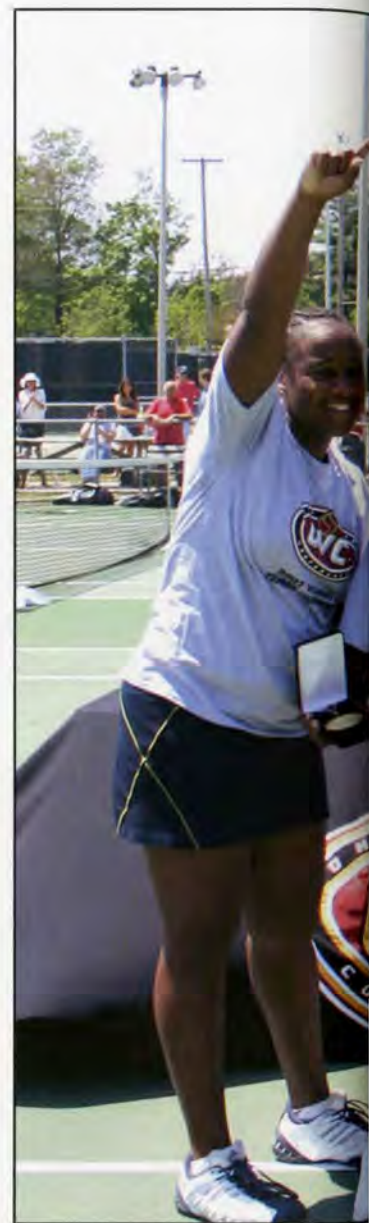
The Lask sisters also won two straight games after losing three games in No. 1 doubles. However, the Commodores came back after the Racers won another game, and won the match 8-3.

In No. 3 doubles, Angela McGahee, a freshman from Memphis, Tenn., and Lynsey Bochenek, a freshman from Orland Park, Ill., fell short 7-6 although they put up a good fight.

The Racers and Commodores fought a similar battle in singles play, with no Racer wins and one tie.

The women ended their season in the first round of the NCAA tournament, but without too much disappointment.

Said Keasling: "Coming back after the slow starts shows how much [the team members] believe in themselves and showed that they can play



Members of the tennis team celebrate after winning the Ohio Valley Conference Championship. The team beat Eastern Illinois and Samford to clinch the title, and went on to compete in the NCAA tournament. photo courtesy of msu athletics

women's tennis

[team conquers sixth ovc championship]



@ East Tennessee State

@ University of Kentucky

@ University of Memphis

vs. Missouri

@ St. Louis University

vs. Southern Illinois

vs. Miami (Ohio) University

@ Samford University

@ Jacksonville State University

@ Grand Canyon University

@ Tennessee-Chattanooga

@ Tennessee State

L 1-6

L 0-7

W 6-1

L 1-6

W 5-2

W 5-2

L 2-5

L 3-4

W 7-0

W 9-0

W 4-2

W 7-0

vs. Southeast Missouri State

vs. Eastern Kentucky University

vs. Morehead State

@ Tennessee Martin

vs. Austin Peay

vs. Tennessee Tech University

@ Eastern Illinois University

OVC Tournament

vs. Eastern Illinois

vs. Samford

NCAA Tournament

vs. Vanderbilt University

W 7-0

W 5-2

W 6-1

W 4-3

W 7-0

W 6-1

W 5-2

W 4-1

W 4-1

L 0-4

men's tennis

[racers earn ovc team sportsmanship award]



@ Indiana University
 @ University of Mississippi
 @ University of Louisville
 vs. UT-Chattanooga
 @ Samford
 @ Jacksonville State
 @ University of Tennessee
 @ University of Kentucky
 @ Bellarmine University
 @ Tennessee State

L 0-7
 L 0-7
 L 0-7
 L 3-4
 L 1-6
 L 1-6
 L 0-7
 L 0-6
 W 8-1
 W 7-0

vs. Southeastern Louisiana
 @ Memphis
 vs. Eastern Kentucky
 vs. Morehead State
 @ Tennessee-Martin
 vs. Tennessee Tech University
 @ Eastern Illinois University
 vs. Austin Peay
OVC Conference Tournament
 vs. Samford

L 2-5
 L 0-7
 L 3-4
 W 6-1
 W 4-3
 L 3-4
 L 3-4
 W 5-2
 L 0-4



Nicholas Ksiezopolski, a junior from Toronto, Ontario, tries to save the ball during a practice game. The men's tennis team ended the season with a record of 5-14.

story by ben amberg
photographs by paul holladay

The Murray State men's tennis team welcomed back eight of nine players from last season with the hope of improving upon last season's 6-12 record and to bring success back to Murray State tennis. This hope, however, was overshadowed by a disappointing 5-14 season.

Despite the rough season, the Racers had back last season's Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year Fadi Zamjaoui, a senior from Casablanca, Morocco. Zamjaoui competed most of the season in the No. 1 position, earned OVC Athlete of the Week honors two consecutive weeks, boasted a 17 match winning streak in singles, which dated back to 2006, and was named OVC Player of the Year for the second time.

Clayton Clark, from Belleville, Ill., Jeff Lester, from Harrodsburg, and Dmytro Hryhorash, from Lviv, Ukraine, were also returning seniors.

"It was a great experience to play for the Racers," Clark said. "I had a great career and I'm going to miss the team and the memories."

The Racers' first win came in the eighth match of the season when they defeated Bellarmine University. Murray State claimed all three doubles victories and five of six singles victories. Other victories came against Tennessee State University, Morehead State University, University of Tennessee-Martin and Austin Peay State University.

The team's season came to an end at the O'Reilly OVC Conference Tournament when they were defeated by Samford University. The Racers' lone victory came when Hryhorash and Zamjaoui defeated Samford University's Sam Huffman and Renan Silveira, 8-4, in doubles.

Although they had a disappointing season, the Racers were awarded the Ohio Valley Conference Team Sportsmanship Award. This award was given based on the votes of student-athletes and coaches, who chose the team they believed best exhibited a standard of sportsmanship and ethical behavior on and off the court.

"Sportsmanship is a core value of the Ohio Valley Conference, and the team awards are a pri-

mary means of celebrating those student-athletes and coaches who perform with distinction," OVC Commissioner Dr. Jon Steinbrecher told GoRacers.com. "Anytime you are recognized by your peers, it is truly an honor. I congratulate Murray State's men's and women's tennis programs for their pursuit of excellence."



Practicing on campus, Fadi Zamjaoui, a senior from Casablanca, Morocco, serves the ball. Zamjaoui was named OVC Men's Tennis Player of the Year, and concluded his career having won 17 straight OVC matches.

rowing

[team excels athletically and academically]



Hobbs Island Regatta
vs. Auburn & Sewanee
Varsity-Four: 1st and 2nd Place

Head of the Tennessee
vs. Virginia Tech, Clemson, Vanderbilt, Auburn,
Tennessee
Varsity-Four: 3rd Place
Novice-Four: 3rd Place
Novice-Eight: 4th and 5th Place
Varsity-Eight: 7th and 11th Place

Head of the Chattahoochee
vs. Alabama, Vanderbilt, Southern Methodist, Duke,
Tennessee
Varsity-Four: 17th Place and 27th Place
Varsity-Eight: 24th Place
Novice-Eight: 12th

Natchitoches, La.
vs. Wichita State & Northwestern State
1st Varsity-Eight: 1st Place
Varsity-Four: 1st and 2nd Place
Novice-Eight: 1st Place
2nd Varsity-Eight: 1st Place

Black Warrior River
vs. Alabama
1st Varsity-Eight: 2nd Place
Novice-Eight: 3rd Place
Varsity-Four: 2nd and 3rd Place
Novice-Four: 2nd Place
2nd Varsity-Eight: 2nd Place

Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association
Varsity-Four (Heat 5): 1st Place
Varsity-Four (ABC Semifinal, A Final): 2nd Place and
6th Place
Novice-Eight (B Semifinal, Final): 5th and 4th Place
Varsity-Eight (A Semifinal, B Final): 6th and 4th Place

Midwest Collegiate Championships
1st Varsity-Eight: 4th Place
Novice-Eight: 3rd Place
2nd Varsity-Eight: 2nd Place
1st Varsity-Four: 5th Place
2nd Varsity-Four: 3rd Place
Novice-Four: 6th Place

NCAA Regional
Open-Four: 5th and 3rd Place
Novice-Eight: 5th, 3rd and 4th Place
Varsity-Eight: 6th, 6th and 5th Place



Members of the women's team at the catch of their stroke row back to the dock after a race. The team raced alumni on Oct. 14.

story by james johnson
photographs by samantha gebert

At Murray State University, women's rowing was a sport where academic excellence lived. The team excelled both in the classroom and on the water this year.

The Lady Racers had eight student-athletes who made at least a 3.25 grade point average and who made the OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll.

The team opened the season against the University of Louisville in a practice meet. No times were kept but the Lady Racers got a good feel for the season.

"Our boat average has improved and I feel we have accomplished a lot as a team," Kelly Anderson, a sophomore from Lexington, said.

The women's rowing team had numerous first place finishes throughout their season. One was at Hobbs Island Regatta in Huntsville, Ala., where the team took home a gold medal.

"It's real exciting for Murray State in general to win gold medals because it just shows where our program is moving," Karen Delaney, a junior from Louisville, said.

With a 5,000-meter course held on the Tennessee River, the team's varsity-four finished with a time of 17 minutes, 12 seconds, which was 53 seconds faster than the second place crew team.

The crew kicked off the spring season with four wins in one competition. They won first place in the varsity-eight and the varsity-four competitions against Wichita State, as well as first against Northwestern State in the varsity-eight and novice-eight races.

Competing in 10 mph winds and scorching temperatures, the varsity-eight had a time of 7 minutes, 48 seconds, and the varsity-four had a time of 8 minutes, 49 seconds, against Wichita State.

In the races against Northwestern State, the varsity-four finished with a time of 7 minutes, 32 seconds, and the novice-eight had a time of 8 minutes, 1 second.

"The most memorable moment of the season for me is the Alabama race where we had the lead for two-thirds of the race and they came back and beat us by 1 1 second," Delaney said. "It was frustrating and we are reminded of it every day."

The crew made it to the NCAA Regionals in the 2007 Aramark South/Central Region Sprints tournament on Milton Hill Lake in Oak Ridge, Tenn. The team's varsity-eight was also ranked 84th out of 300 squads from around the country.

"I think next year we will be a lot better," Delaney said. "It will be a rebuilding year. This year our varsity-eight was very competitive, and everybody will be more acquainted and used to each other, so that will make it that much better."



Men's team members place the racing shell back on the trailer after a race. The team competed against the men's alumni team at Kenlake.

men's golf

[team wins four tournaments, places well in others]



Wasiota Winds Fall Kick Off
MSU Invitational
Mission Inn Collegiate Classic
APSU Intercollegiate
Buffalo Rock-Southern Showdown
Pizza Hut/Bellsouth Intercollegiate

3rd of 13
1st of 15
14th of 18
2nd of 18
1st of 17
1st of 12

Grover Page Classic
Samford Intercollegiate
Grub Mart Intercollegiate
2007 MTSU Aldila Intercollegiate
Tennessee State Invitational
Ohio Valley Conference Championship

3rd of 16
9th of 17
5th of 14
11th of 11
1st of 9
4th of 10



story by ben amberg
photographs by jeff slinker

Murray State's men's golf team had a very successful season, winning four tournaments and finishing in the top five in nine out of 12 tournaments over the course of the season.

The Racers started the season on the right foot as they finished third in the Wasiota Winds Fall Kick Off, the first tournament of the season. They shot a three-round total of 871.

Nicolas Griffin, a senior from Hawesville, and Chris Griffin, a freshman from Paducah, had the Racers' best finishes, tying for 15th place in the 88-competitor field and shooting total scores of 216. Jerry Price, a junior from Owensboro, was not far behind as he shot a total of 217 and finished in 19th place.

The Racers' first team victory came on Murray State's Frances E. Miller Memorial Golf Course at the MSU Invitational. They beat Tennessee Tech by six strokes, shooting a total score of 858.

The team went on to win the Buffalo Rock-Southern Showdown, 18th Annual Pizza Hut/Bellsouth Intercollegiate Invitational and the Tennessee State Invitational.

"I thought we played some solid golf from start to finish," head coach Eddie Hunt said. "We had the kind of team that could win just about every time we played. We didn't always win, but it was a lot of fun being in the middle of the action most of the time."

The men's golf team lost two seniors: Michael Craft, from Paducah, and Nicolas Griffin, from Hawesville.

"I want to thank our seniors for their efforts over the last four seasons," Hunt said. "This is about more than golf; it's about the student-athletes that you work with. I've seen these two

develop into outstanding young men. Michael and Nick are going to have success in whatever they decide to do in their lives and we're going to miss them."



Nicolas Griffin, a senior from Hawesville, reads his putt on one of the greens at Miller Memorial Golf Course. Griffin finished seventh at the MSU Invitational, shooting 71-70-73=214.

women's golf

[team places second in ovc championship]



Draper Valley Intercollegiate
Lady Kat Invitational
Lady Indian Classic
APSU Intercollegiate
Troy State Invitational
Southern Shoot Out

11th of 18
14th of 15
3rd of 19
9th of 14
4th of 15
6th of 21

NewWave Communications Lady Racer Classic 5th of 8
UNI Snowbird Invitational 5th of 8
Samford Intercollegiate 7th of 14
SIU Saluki Invitational 4th of 14
EKU Spring Invitational 9th of 12
Ohio Valley Conference Championship 2nd of 7

story by ben amberg
photographs courtesy of athletics department

The Lady Racers Golf team turned in a very respectable 2006-07 season as they finished in the top 10 in nine of 11 tournaments.

They began the season on a positive note at the Draper Valley Invitational, finishing ahead of Ohio Valley Conference rival Tennessee Tech. Christi Baron, a senior from Louisville, and Andrea Downer, a freshman from Surrey, England, led the Racers in the 54-hole, 92-competitor event. Baron and Downer finished tied for 28th, shooting a 229.

The team's most impressive outing came in early October at the Lady Indian Classic, held in Jonesboro, Ark., as the team finished third out of 19 teams.

Downer posted the Racers' best finish when she fired rounds of 70-72-78=220, which led to a third place finish.

"Andrea played exceptional and for her to compete for an individual title in only her third tournament as a Racer is exciting," head coach Velvet Milkman told GoRacers.com. "She came very close to winning and I know the experience has made her a better player."

In addition to Downer's impressive performance, the Lady Racers led the field of 19 teams in birdies with 34.

"Our play the first day was good and enabled us to get into the final groups in the last day," Milkman said. "I like the way we handled the situation and I am pleased to see we rose to the challenge."

The team was a young, talented squad, and only graduated two starting seniors and four seniors overall. The Lady Racers looked forward to having back their core squad.

Among these seniors to graduate was Baron, who was selected as MSU's Coca-Cola Community All-American for her excellence in community service. The Coca-Cola Community All-Americans program recognized student athletes who made a difference in their communities.

Baron was recognized for her campus service through involvement with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, which she served as co-president and huddle leader.

In April, the team finished in second place

at the Ohio Valley Conference Championships. Downer was named to the All-OVC Newcomer team and All-OVC First team. Baron was also named to the All-OVC First team.

Downer came in fifth place with a 235. Bethany Yates, a sophomore from Bardstown, finished seventh with a 238; Baron finished 10th with a 240; Lauren Hughes, a senior from Mayfield, shot a 242 and finished 15th; and Megan McKinney, a freshman from Louisville, shot a 247 to come in 23rd place.



Christi Baron, a senior from Louisville, takes some practice swings with her driver before stepping up to hit her tee shot. One of four seniors on Murray State's team, Baron placed 16th at the Lady Indian Classic at Arkansas State with rounds of 70-72-78=220.



Following through her swing, Lauren Hughes, a senior from Mayfield, chips the ball. Hughes played in five fall events and had a 14th place finish at the Troy Intercollegiate with rounds of 75-74=149.

[cheer & dance]

[squads show support for racer athletics]





story by sarah baker
photographs by elaine kight

Those attending football or basketball games at Murray State often noticed two very spirited groups on the field or court: the cheerleaders and the dancers. The members of these two squads were full of spirit, energy and talent, and worked hard to energize fans and athletes.

Not only were the cheerleaders and dancers found along the sidelines of Racer sports, they were also seen participating in events throughout the community. The cheerleaders attended Buddy Walk, which supported research for Down Syndrome, and visited local schools to read to students as part of a literacy program.

"This year was refreshing, different, unique and a journey," first-year cheerleading coach MarTeze Hammonds said. "I hope to implement fresh, new ideas for next season."

Rebecca Ruebke, a junior from Steeleville, Ill., served as cheerleading captain. Joanna Smith, a freshman from Hazel Green, Ala. was co-captain and Jerad Millay, a junior from Lone Oak, served as squad leader.

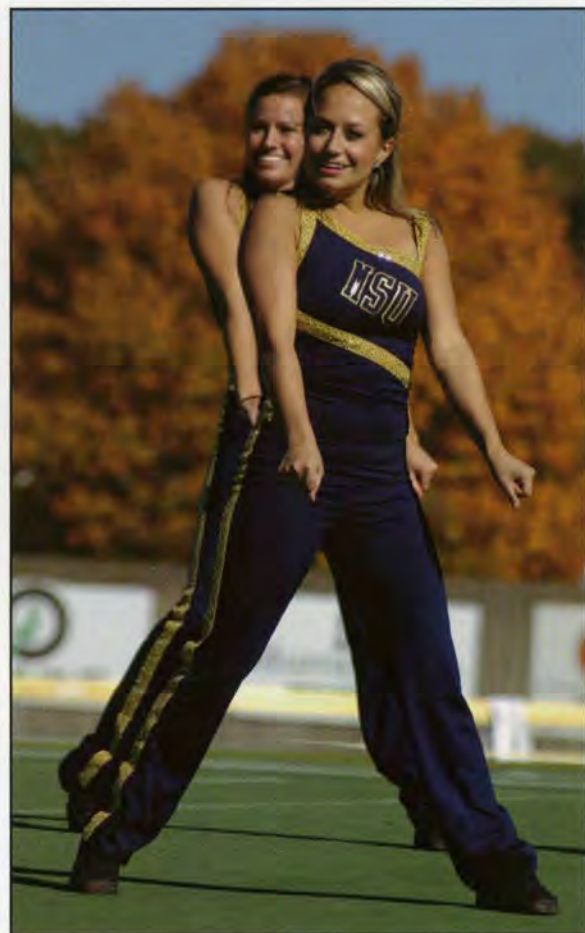
The dance team had a busy season preparing for and performing at all home football and basketball games. The Racer Girls practiced three nights a week in preparation for performances. The team performed pom, jazz and hip-hop style routines, the majority of which were choreographed by members of the team as well as Racer Girl alumnae. Pom style routines were mainly performed at football games, while jazz and hip-hop style routines were seen at basketball games.

"I love to dance at sports events and I knew that Racer Girls did just that," said Racer Girls captain Bailey Murphy, a senior from Crestwood. "It is a chance to have fun with eleven other girls dancing in front of thousands of Racer fans. Racer Girls was my chance to do what I loved."

Murphy also appreciated the fact that the girls were able to provide entertainment for people of all ages. "For the families that bring their children

who might not understand the game, Racer Girls is something that they can watch and enjoy," she said.

One thing Murphy said she admired at Murray State was the number of fans who still support Racer athletics, even if school is not in session. "This involvement of the community in MSU events shows how important it is for the Racer Girls to participate in events within the community," she said. "Showing that we care and want to help others will only make others more willing to come and support us as well."



Members of the Racer Girls perform during a home football game. The women had several dance routines that they performed at halftime of every home game.

The cheerleading squad celebrates after the Racers win at a home basketball game. The women wore "Be Bold, Wear Gold" shirts in honor of the theme for that night's game, which called for all fans to wear gold in support of the basketball teams.



Sporting his blue and gold, Dunker cheers on the Racers at a home football game. The mascot could be found at nearly all home football and basketball games.

[dunker]

dunker turns thirty

long-time mascot celebrates his birthday in style

story by jim burch

photograph by caitlin dunnagan

The beloved mascot of Murray State University hit the golden age of 30 in 2006 and planned on having one heck of a party.

Dunker was born in 1976 in Murray. Since then, he's been here for hundreds of Murray State sporting events and plans on giving his best for many more.

Dunker said he's in better shape than ever before. "I've been eating better these days," he said. "I used to eat the grass by the stadium in the 70s, but now I eat the new sod by the Biology Building. It's delicious!"

All that grass comes in handy for Dunker's intense workouts to stay in shape for game days. Besides the normal laps around the track, Dunker started taking aerobic kickboxing a few years ago.

"Kickboxing is twice as much fun for me than it is for humans," he said. "I get to kick with four legs instead of just two."

With all the working out and healthy diet, it was no surprise to students and fans at sporting events that Dunker could cheer for hours without needing a break.

Dunker was not one to take his job lightly, but everyone wondered how he spent his free time when he was not working to become a better mascot.

The big question for Dunker, when he turned the big 3-0, was the possibility of a Mrs. Dunker in the picture.

"I've had a few dates at the equestrian matches before," Dunker said, "and boy, can some of those ladies jump high! There might be a lady horse in my life, but I try to keep business separate from pleasure."

When asked about inspirations in his life, Dunker said he draws motivation from several figures.

"When it comes to horses, Secretariat is my number one hero," Dunker said. "And as far as mascots are concerned, anyone who can flip off a trampoline and slam dunk a basketball earns my respect."

There's no doubt in the minds of students at Murray State that Dunker brought a fire and excitement to University athletics. Happy 30th birthday, Dunker!



Supporting the Racers as always, a much-younger Dunker helps lead a cheer. Though the look of Dunker has changed over the years, he has continued to support the Racers for three decades. (Photograph from 1979 *Shield*)

rodeo

[36-member team competes in ozark region]



Men's Year-End Event Standings

Tie Down Calf Roping

18th Evin Burke
29th Ben Davis

Steer Wrestling

22nd Brandon Ragsdale

Team Roping Header

4th Ben Ray
23rd Chase Adamson

Team Roping Heeler

5th Evin Burke
21st Ben Davis

Saddle Bronc Riding

12th Cody Goad
14th Matt Boyers

Bareback Bronc Riding

8th Derek Lawson

Bull Riding

9th Matt Boyers
21st Ryan Stoess
22nd Tyler Wheeler

Women's Year-End Event Standings

Barrell Racing

13th Alaina Boyd
18th Amber Boyers
26th Lindsey Calender
27th Jeanette Mawyers

Break Away Calf Roping

13th Allie Hafley
18th Amanda Stigall
24th Nikki Jackson
25th Krista Jo Staley

Goat Tying

1st Amanda Stigall
15th Kayla Berger
16th Allie Hafley
19th Krista Jo Staley
21st Amber Boyers

story by rachel ruehling
photographs by caitlin dunnagan

Blood, sweat, tears and a little bit of dirt were put into the efforts of the rodeo team in the past season. Rodeo, the Spanish word for round-up, was a longtime sport consisting of men and women participating in the following events: bull riding, bareback bronco riding, saddle bronco riding, steer wrestling, team roping, calf roping, women's barrel racing, breakaway roping, goat roping and pole bending.

Thirty years ago the rodeo team was founded at Murray State by a small group of agriculture students. Since then the program has had its ups and downs; however this year, its members were very proud of their 36-member squad.

"I would say the biggest success would have to be that the team raised over \$15,000 to put on our rodeo that's held here in the fall," said Matt Boyers, a senior from Poplar Bluff, Mo., who participated in bull riding and saddle bronc. "Along with that, we had three members make it to the national finals. Amanda Stigall made it in goat tying and Evin Burke and Ben Ray made it in team roping."

Murray State was one of several colleges and universities that competed in the Ozark Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association and had the only rodeo team in Kentucky. The team competed in seven events at various venues across the region including the West Kentucky Livestock Exposition Center in Murray.

The rodeo team's mission was to "provide the opportunity for students to earn a college degree while pursuing the sport of college rodeo," and of course, to have a good time.

Though MSU Rodeo was known as a team competition, competitors actually performed individually. Points were awarded to the top six finishers of each event and were accumulated throughout the course of the season. At the conclusion of the season, the top two men's and women's teams, as well as the top three individuals, competed at the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo.

"Rodeo is just such a rush," Kurtis Meador, a freshman from Salem, Ill., said. "With most sports like football or baseball you get another chance throughout the game. If you drop a pass early in the game or strike out you will get another chance later on during the game, but with rodeo you just get one shot. You may drive six hours to the rodeo for less than 30 seconds of game time. You only have that one chance to show everyone that you deserve to be there. Sometimes you go home with a check in your pocket and sometimes you walk out empty-handed."

The rodeo team had one of its first competitions at the University of Western Alabama, where several of the team members did exceptionally well. Boyers placed second in the long-go and won the short-go and the average of the bull riding. Allie Hafley, a freshman from Perryville, placed second in the long-go for barrel racing, and Amanda Stigall, a senior from Bainbridge, Ind., tied for second in the short-go for goat tying.

"Rodeo is just one of those sports that you never know what is gonna happen," said Derek Lawson, a senior from Murray. "With rodeo you never really know what's going to happen. Sure you have the same events, but you never know what each animal is going to do or how things are going to turn out until it's all said and done."



Evin Burke, a senior from Charleston, Mo., rides alongside Trey Windhorst, a junior from Louisville, as they attempt to rope a calf. Calf roping was one of several events on which students participating in collegiate rodeos were judged.



Tying a goat, Allie Hafley, a freshman from Perryville, participates in a rodeo event at Murray's Expo Center. Hafley earned the Outstanding Cowgirl award at the Alpha Zeta banquet for her accomplishments in rodeo competitions.

story by stephanie harrington
photographs by samantha gebert

The equestrian team at Murray State competed in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) in four divisions: Hunter Seat Flat, Hunter Seat Fences, Western and Reining. Over 50 students were members of the various divisions, proudly representing Murray State and their abilities in weekend shows.

The IHSA had nine zones, and each zone was separated into regions. Murray State competed in Zone 9, Region 1, against such teams as Middle Tennessee State University, Mississippi State University, Tennessee Tech University, University of Tennessee-Martin, University of Tennes-

see-Knoxville, Western Kentucky University and Vanderbilt University.

Laura Sadecki, a sophomore team member from Peotone, Ill., who competed in the Western division, first joined the team her freshman year. "This year's team was very successful," she said. "Several girls qualified for regionals."

Regionals took place after the regular season of competition, and showcased the riders who met point requirements in each of the division classes. Sadecki appeared in regionals her first year but missed the mark by one point this season. However, she concentrated on the effort her team made as a whole at all of the shows.

"The shows were fun and eventful as well as serious and competitive," she said. "I like to think that we were one of the most competitive teams in the region, consistently placing first or second altogether, as well as earning outstanding individual scores. We never went home empty-handed. I considered us, and our riders, the team to beat."

Regionals were held at the Murray State Exposition Center on March 17. Cynthia Charleville, a senior western and reining competitor from St. Louis, Mo., qualified for regionals in the reining division as well as in the open class of the western division. Charleville was also a team co-captain, and finished her last season on a high note. She was named the Zone 5, Region 1 Year End High Point Rider and represented the University at the IHSA's National Competition in May.

Other riders representing Murray State in the western division during the regional competition were Hope Hunter in the advanced class; Leah Rensing and Rachel Wesselman in the novice class; Jennifer Hunter, JoAnna Moore, Kelley Murphey and Jeremy Roark in the intermediate class; Dayne Walker and Mary Williams in the beginner class; and Jamie Gilmore in the reining division.



Cynthia Charleville, a senior from St. Louis, Mo., works to maintain her form in the open class at regionals. Charleville, who served as captain of the equestrian team, was first in the region and seventh in the nation in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association.



Dayne Walker, a sophomore from Charlottesville, Ind., trots his horse around the stadium prior to competition. Walker competed in the beginner class of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association's Western Division during the regional competition.

equestrian

[riders do well in regional competition]



track & field

[young women's team places well in competitions]



Top 5 Finishes in Competitions

Southern Illinois McDonald's Invitational

Murray State 5th place of 8
 Josha Rogers: 4th, high jump
 Lindsey Rich: 5th, high jump
 Kassandra Sutzer: 5th, 400 meter dash
 Megan Richeson, Kassandra Sutzer, Taylor Crawford, Sydney Gholeston: 3rd, 4x400 meter relay

University of Indiana Hoosier Hills Invitational

Josha Rogers, Maggie McKay, Chelsea Hosey: 4th place, high jump

OVC Indoor Championship

Dominique Robinson: 1st, weight throw; 2nd, shot put

Morehouse Relays

Alaina Zanin: 1st, 3000 meter run
 Dominique Robinson: 1st, shot put; 2nd, discus throw
 Alicia Tempel: 1st, pole vault
 Josha Rogers: 3rd, high jump
 Laura Schroeder: 3rd, discus throw; 3rd, javelin throw

Gatorade Classic

Meagan Richeson: 1st, 400 meter hurdles
 Andreye' Payne: 1st, long jump
 Kassandra Sutzer: 4th, long jump
 Chelsea Hosey: 5th, long jump
 Josha Rogers: 1st, high jump
 Maggie McKay: 2nd, high jump
 Alaina Zanin: 4th, 5000 meter run
 Dominique Robinson: 2nd, shot put
 Alicia Tempel: 3rd, pole vault

Vanderbilt Invitational

Josha Rogers: 4th, high jump

Battle of the Lakes Invitational

Josha Rogers: 1st, high jump
 Maggie McKay, Lindsay Rich, Chelsea Hosey: 3rd, high jump
 Kassandra Sutzer: 1st, long jump
 Shameka Dial: 1st, shot put
 Meagan Richeson: 1st, 400 meter hurdles
 Olivia Joseph: 1st, 100 meter dash

OVC Outdoor Championship

Murray State: 5th place overall
 Pam Bell: 1st, discus; 5th, shot put
 Olivia Joseph: 4th, 100 meter dash
 Taylor Crawford: 4th, 800 meter run
 Shameka Dial: 4th, discus; 2nd, shot put
 Josha Rogers: 2nd, high jump
 Maggie McKay: 4th, high jump
 Chelsea Hosey: 5th, high jump
 Alicia Tempel: 4th, pole vault
 Dominique Robinson: 3rd, shot put

Even though Murray State lost its men's track and field team just a few weeks before the indoor season started, it did not taint the women's performance this year.

The Lady Racers had a loaded roster of women, with 19 of 30 being talented incoming freshmen.

The team began the season with a meet at Southern Illinois in the SIU Booster Invitational. In this un-scored team meet, Dominique Robinson, a junior thrower from Huntsville, Ala., individually placed third in the weight throw. Alicia Tempel, a sophomore jumper from Santa Claus, Ind., also placed in the meet, finishing fourth in pole vault.

"At the SIU meet, we made a strong appearance, and what I mean by that is we came in very deep and positive as a team," Robinson said. "We warmed up together, we stretched together and we encouraged each other throughout the whole meet. That experience was an amazing feeling for me."

Robinson was recognized for her performances by being named Ohio Valley Conference Track and Field Co-Athlete of the Year during the indoor season.

In the OVC Indoor Championship, she finished first in the 20-pound weight throw, setting a new school record of 54 feet, 4 inches. Robinson also finished second in the shot put with a toss of 42 feet, 9.5 inches, missing first by merely a quarter inch.

"I finally felt like I lived up to my potential at that meet," Robinson said. "Of course my distances could have been a lot better, but nevertheless, feeling the level of accomplishment of being OVC champ in the weight, second in the shot, OVC Co-Athlete of the Year and, most importantly, helping my team score points, is definitely the best feeling of all."

The Lady Racers finished seventh overall at the OVC Championship, with a total of four top 10 finishes. Two of these came from Robinson and the others came from Maggie McKay, a sophomore jumper from Owensboro, and Josha Rogers, a freshman jumper from Brookport, Ill.

McKay placed fourth in the high jump with a jump of 5 feet, 4.25 inches; Rogers placed seventh with a jump of 5 feet, 2.25 inches.

"Reflecting back, we went through adversity with injuries in the beginning of the season," head coach Dereck Chavis said. "Now that we have them back and in good shape, we have a really good opportunity to show people what we're capable of."

In the OVC Outdoor Championship, the Lady Racers finished in fifth place with a total of 11 top five finishes. Pam Bell, a freshman from Paducah, won the discus event with a throw of 42.06 meters, and qualified to go to the NCAA Regional Tournament. Bell also became the fifth person in Murray State history to win the OVC Outdoor Discus.

Sameka Dial, a junior from Murray, also competed in the discus, placing fourth with a throw of 40.52 meters.

In the 100-meter dash, Olivia Joseph, a sophomore from Henderson, came in fourth place with

a time of 12.51 seconds, just .25 seconds shy of the first place time. Taylor Crawford, a freshman from Owensboro, finished fourth in the 800-meter run.

There were three top five finishes in the high jump event. Rogers took second place with a jump of 5 feet, 5 inches, and Chelsea Hosey, a freshman from Bolingbrook, Ill., and McKay tied for fourth place with jumps of five feet, three inches.

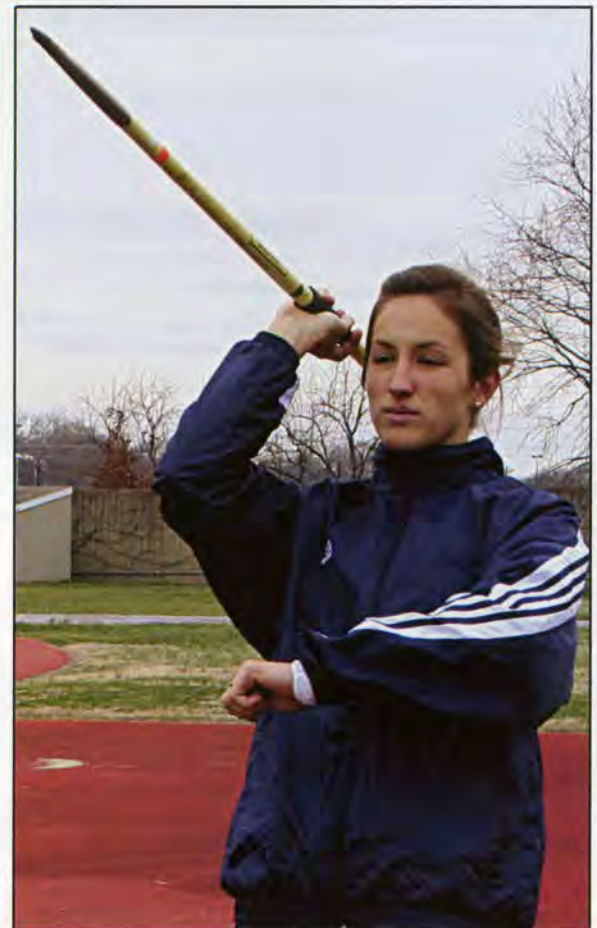
Temple took home the fourth place finish in pole vault with a height of 10 feet, 11 75 inches. She also set a new school record this season in the pole vault with a height of 11 feet in the Missouri Relays.

The Lady Racers also placed three top five finishes in shot put. Dial finished in second place with a toss of 44 feet, 75 inches, Robinson placed third with a throw of 43 feet, 11.25 inches and Bell rounded out the top five with the fifth place finish throw of 41 feet, 10 inches.

"Next season will be a very strong season because we pretty much have everyone coming back," Chavis said. "We're only losing one senior and we're adding new talent, so I honestly think we will be better than we have been in years. I'm happy that the people who have been with the program so long and have stuck through the good and bad are still here and are still helping us get back to a competitive level in the conference again. It hasn't been easy, but it has been very rewarding to see the program progress and grow."



Practicing her technique, Dominique Robinson, a junior from Huntsville, Ala., throws the shot put. Robinson was named OVC Co-Athlete of the Year during the 2007 season.



Laura Schroeder, a senior from Evansville, Ind., practices throwing the javelin at Roy Stewart Stadium. Schroeder previously placed fourth in the OVC discus and eighth in javelin.

men's basketball

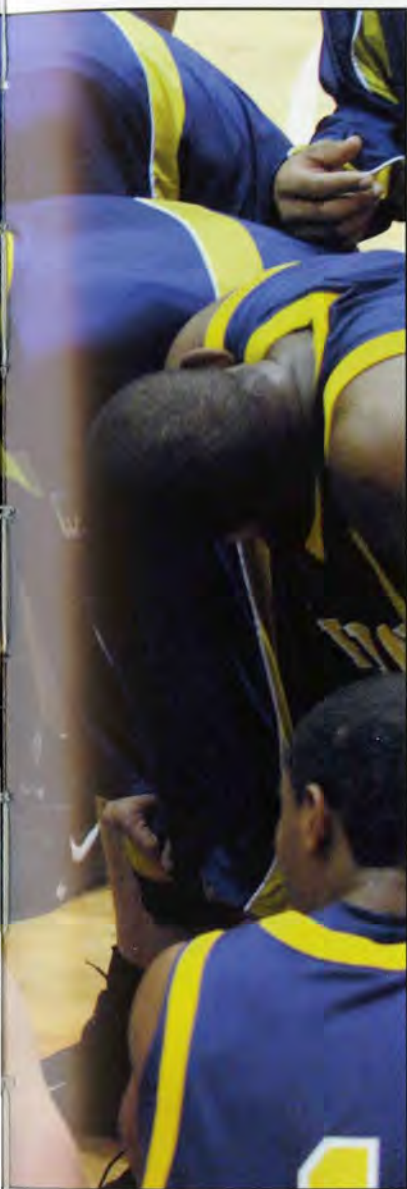
[team falls short of ovc victory]



vs. York University
 vs. San Diego State
 vs. Seattle Pacific
 vs. St. Mary's California
 vs. Belhaven
 @ Southern Illinois
 vs. Eastern Illinois
 @ Illinois-Chicago
 @ Tennessee
 vs. Anderson
 @ Eastern Kentucky
 @ Morehead State
 vs. Jacksonville State
 vs. Samford
 @ Eastern Illinois
 at Tennessee State

W 69-47
 L 84-87
 L 68-76
 L 44-62
 W 73-72
 L 46-62
 W 53-50
 L 68-74
 L 64-89
 W 78-33
 L 66-72
 W 70-67
 W 72-71
 L 44-55
 W 73-62
 W 86-83
 vs. Southeast Missouri State
 @ Austin Peay
 vs. Tennessee-Martin
 @ Tennessee Tech
 @ Southeast Missouri State
 @ Samford
 vs. Austin Peay
 @ Jacksonville State
 vs. Eastern Kentucky
 vs. Morehead State
 vs. Tennessee State
 @ Rider
 vs. Tennessee Tech
 @ Tennessee-Martin
OVC CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT
 vs. Samford

L 85-96
 L 59-68
 W 78-65
 L 52-63
 W 85-67
 W 57-51
 W 77-68
 W 63-61
 L 62-64
 W 74-62
 L 60-64
 W 58-51
 W 60-56
 W 74-52
 L 60-70



Head Coach Billy Kennedy directs his team during a time out in the Racers' last regular season game against Tennessee-Martin. The Racers recorded a 74-52 win against the Skyhawks.

story by ben amberg
photographs by elaine kight

The Murray State Racer basketball team fell just short under new head coach Billy Kennedy as they tried valiantly to repeat last season's Ohio Valley Conference Championship and NCAA tournament appearance.

Kennedy had a tough battle from the start with the pressure of a very successful previous season on his shoulders and only four returning players.

Murray State signed Kennedy in April 2006 after he had coached six seasons at Southeastern Louisiana University and one season at the University of Miami (Fla.). In Kennedy's last two seasons with Southeastern, he led the Lions to a 44-18 record, two Southland Conference regular season titles and the school's first-ever trip to the NCAA Tournament.

"I'm so excited to be here at Murray State," Kennedy said. "For me, the biggest attraction of all is how the fans and students at Murray State are basketball crazy. I'm looking forward to experiencing it and continuing the great Racer tradition."

Shawn "Spoon" Witherspoon, a senior from Oviedo, Fla., was one of the four returning Racers from last year's squad. On Feb. 8, Witherspoon became the 33rd Racer to join Murray State basketball's prestigious 1,000-point club. He was a two-time All-OVC First-Team player and a four year starter for the Racers.

Tyler Holloway, a junior from Decatur, Ala., was another of the returning players who played a vital role in the lineup. One of the team's best three-point shooters, Holloway earned the OVC Player of the Week honor for the first time in his career when he shot 65 percent from the field, 60 percent from behind the three-point line and 100 percent from the free-throw line.

Another key contributor to the Racer's season was Bruce Carter, a junior from Detroit, Mich., who also earned OVC honors. Carter was a transfer from Arkansas-Fort Smith Junior College, where he won a NJCAA National Championship in 2006. He also earned the OVC Newcomer of

the Week award two weeks in a row and scored 364 points on the season.

The basketball team was 13-7 in conference play and 16-13 on the season, making it Murray State's 20th straight winning season.

The team was very optimistic as it approached the OVC tournament and hosted Tennessee Tech in the first round at the Regional Special Events Center.

[continued on page 203]



Tyler Holloway, a sophomore guard from Decatur, Ala., goes up for a layup against a Southern Illinois University player. The Racers lost 46-62 at the game, which was played at SIU.



Ray George, a senior guard from Decatur, Ga., dunks the ball against Tennessee Tech. The Racers edged past the Golden Eagles to beat them 60-56.



Ed Horton, a senior guard from Shreveport, La., drives past a Tennessee State defender. The Racers lost the contest 60-64 in overtime.



Shawn Witherspoon, a senior forward from Oviedo, Fla., goes up for a shot against Tennessee Tech. The 29th all-time scorer, Witherspoon, with 1,065 points, was the 33rd member of the Racers' 1000-point club.

[continued from page 201]

"I've said before and I'll say it again, anybody can beat anybody in this league," Kennedy said. "We're excited to be in the tournament and excited to be at home. It is a great accomplishment for our team."

The Racers started out on the right foot in the tournament with a key win over Tennessee Tech, but were disappointed when they lost to Samford, ending the season.

Following the conclusion of its season, Murray State basketball said farewell to its seniors: Witherspoon, Ed Horton, from Shreveport, La., and Dwayne Paul, from Arlington, Texas.

"A lot of people have told me I've had a great career," said Witherspoon, who left Racer basketball as the 29th all-time scorer. "I was blessed to be in this program."

The team ended the season in good shape as it only graduated three players off its 16-man roster. This strong core could be built upon for the next season, as the younger players received valuable court experience.

"There were a lot of positives from this season," Witherspoon said. "All our young guys played this year, so now they'll have this summer and fall to work out. They'll be a completely different team next season."

Shooting over a Tennessee State defender, Marvin Williams, a freshman forward from Lake Wales, Fla., scores two points. Although the Racers put up a fight, they lost the game 60-64 in overtime.

striving for excellence

new basketball coach builds strong program

story by sarah hovekamp
photograph by elaine kight

Stepping into the shoes of former Racer basketball coach Mick Cronin, who led the team to the NCAA tournament in 2006, might have been a daunting task to some. But for new head coach Billy Kennedy, it was a worthwhile challenge. Both coaches had high expectations, and Kennedy was prepared to take the team to a new level.

Kennedy, a Louisiana native, grew up playing basketball. He played for his stepfather at Holy Cross High School in New Orleans. Although he played in college, it was at the high school level where he began to take an interest in coaching.

Shortly after his graduation from Southeastern Louisiana University in 1986, Kennedy made his professional coaching debut. In 1987, he helped New Orleans get to the second round of the NCAA tournament. The next year, he was coaching at the University of Wyoming, where he helped the team make it to the NCAA tournament.

Since then, he has coached at a variety of Division I schools, including the University of California, Northwestern State, Tulane University and Texas A & M. Most recently, he was the assistant coach at the University of Miami, where he helped lead the Hurricanes to the quarterfinals of the National Invitational Tournament.

Kennedy said he was eager to get to Murray in April 2006, when it was first announced he would be the new head coach. He said he was excited

about the strong basketball tradition at Murray and was ready to accomplish great things.

Shortly after he took the job, he realized only four of last season's players were returning. He and his staff got to work immediately recruiting new players.

"The biggest challenge was having so many new guys," Kennedy said.

Although they may have struggled at first, Kennedy and his staff took the new and old players and blended them to create a strong basketball team.

Goals for the 2007 season included having a winning season, and winning the conference tournament. These goals proved to be tough.

"We're not where we want to be," Kennedy said, "but we strive for excellence."

Kennedy credited the dedicated Murray community for helping the team reach its goals.

"Murray State fans always stay positive, and have proven to be the best in the league," he said.

With the help of the fans, Kennedy hoped the next season would only be better.

"Most players are returning, so we will have the spring, summer and fall to train and develop team chemistry and toughness," Kennedy said.

With year round training and continued support from their loyal fans, Kennedy hoped next year's team would be the example of excellence he envisioned.



Head Coach Billy Kennedy calls a play during a basketball game. With Kennedy's guidance, the team finished the season with a record of 16-14.

[billy kennedy]

women's basketball

[team makes appearance at wnit]



vs. Christian Brothers
vs. Kentucky State
vs. Brescia
@ Southern Illinois
@ Western Kentucky
@ Cincinnati
vs. Lipscomb
@ Eastern Kentucky
@ Morehead State
vs. Samford
vs. Jacksonville State
vs. Eastern Illinois
@ Tennessee State
vs. Southeast Missouri
@ Austin Peay
@ Alabama A & M
vs. Tennessee-Martin

W 67-52
W 80-46
W 73-55
L 68-77
L 60-67
L 57-74
W 81-53
W 89-75
W 76-54
W 77-63
W 100-59
W 93-67
W 83-55
L 61-67
W 64-63
W 61-59
W 67-59

@ Tennessee Tech
@ Southeast Missouri
@ Samford
vs. Austin Peay
@ Jacksonville State
vs. Eastern Kentucky
vs. Morehead State
vs. Tennessee State
@ Eastern Illinois
vs. Tennessee Tech
@ Tennessee-Martin

OVC CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

vs. Eastern Kentucky
vs. Tennessee-Martin @ Nashville
vs. Southeast Missouri @ Nashville

NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

@ Arkansas State

L 49-54
L 63-66
W 73-64
L 70-82
W 82-61
W 75-62
W 71-57
W 81-60
W 70-67
W 80-79
L 60-62

W 68-66
W 66-65
L 60-62
L 52-59

The Murray State women's basketball team had a history-making season.

After starting the season with a 2-3 record, the Lady Racers went on a 10-1 run over the next 11 games. And, for the first time in school history, they started off the Ohio Valley Conference season 6-0.

"We were excited about starting the conference off 6-0 and our coaches got on us a lot so that we wouldn't take it to our heads," said Shaleea Petty, a junior guard from Hopkinsville. "This year was a statement year and our chemistry as a team grew stronger after every game."

That statement was loud and clear to visiting Jacksonville State during the 10th game of the season, when the Lady Racers pounded the Lady Gamecocks 100-59 in the Regional Special Events Center.

"We pretty much jumped them early in the game and we rebounded well," Alaina Lee, a junior guard from Houston, Texas, said. "We just had to maintain our composure to keep the lead, and we did just that."

By scoring 100 points, the Lady Racers tied for 12th on the all-time records list.

Since the 1999-2000 season, the women had not been as far as the semi-final round of the OVC tournament, but during the 2006-2007 season, they did it in winning fashion. The women went all the way to the OVC championship game against Southeast Missouri State, but lost to the soon-to-be back-to-back champions for the third time in the season.

Ashley Nicole Hayes, a sophomore guard from Humboldt, Tenn., led all players with 23 points and 10 rebounds. Hayes also got her fifth double-double of the season, and was named to the All-O'Reilly OVC Tournament Team.

With 19 points and seven rebounds in the game, Amber Guffey, a sophomore guard from Albany, was also named to the All-O'Reilly OVC Tournament Team.

"Stops after stops. we had a lead and they came back and hit some lay-ups," Lee said of the game. "I remember thinking, 'just play hard- you never know what can happen.'"

Lee finished the game with nine points and seven rebounds.

Lee's season highlights were scoring 15 points twice against Tennessee State and Morehead State, getting 10 rebounds against Lipscomb and nine assists against Eastern Illinois.

"For the last 20 seconds, it was a tie game," Petty said. "They threw the ball down the court to someone who we thought wasn't a shooter, just someone who rebounded, and she hit the shot with six seconds left on the clock. We came out from the timeout with the plan to get the ball to Amber Guffey for the winning shot and that's what we did. Good shot, but it didn't drop."

Petty ended the game with two points and one rebound. Her season highlights were scoring 18 points against Tennessee Tech, nine rebounds

twice against Jacksonville State and Eastern Kentucky and nine assists against Tennessee State.

Though the Lady Racers put up a good fight without the presence of their leading scorer and re-bouncer Joi Scott because of an injury, they lost by two points (60-62) and ended the tournament 21-9 in hopes for a chance to play in the Women's National Invitation Tournament.

On March 12, the Lady Racers got the call they had been waiting for. In the first round of the Women's NIT, the women played against Arkansas State University.

"We're fortunate to be one of the teams to play in the NIT," Coach Joi Felton said. "The objective is to survive and advance, but we will approach the game like any other game with solid defense and rebounding."

The Lady Racers had a late run, but fell short 52-59. At halftime, the Lady Indians were up 33-19 due to poor shooting by the Lady Racers, who only hit eight of their 28 shots in the first half.

Lee led the team with 12 points and eight rebounds. Hayes followed with 10 points, four rebounds and a game-high of four steals. Petty also scored nine points and had a team-high of five assists.

[continued on page 208]



The Lady Racers celebrate their win over Tennessee-Martin in the OVC semi-finals. The Racers finished as runners-up in the championship after losing 60-62 to Southeast Missouri in the final game.



Guard Shaleea Petty drives the ball and looks for a layup during the Lady Racer's semi-final game against Tennessee-Martin. Petty had 13 points and three assists in the game.



Lady Racers Coach Joi Felton instructs her team during the final seconds of the OVC championship game. The Lady Racers made their first appearance in the game since 1990.

[continued from page 207]

The Lady Racers closed their season with a record of 21-10.

Joi Scott, a senior forward from Reynoldsburg, Ohio, was the first Lady Racer in Murray State women's basketball history to be named OVC Player of the Year after leading the league with 21.7 points per game and a .584 field-goal percentage.

Scott, who also racked up 10 double-doubles for the season, making a career total of 18, was also the first Lady Racer to be named a Kodak/WBCA All-American finalist and the first to be named to the Kodak/WBCA All-American Honorable Mention Team.

Guffey received OVC recognition when selected for the All-OVC Second Team. Guffey was ranked second in the conference in assists, with 4.43 per game, and in free-throw percentage, with .850 for the season.

The team led the conference in scoring offense with 72.6, a scoring margin of +9.2, free throw percentage of .776, field goal percentage of .457 and assist/turnover ratio of 1.01.

The Lady Racers set several school records. They recorded the most OVC wins (15) in a season, finished second in the conference for the second time in school history and hosted the first round of the OVC tournament for the second time. They also went to the OVC Final Four for the seventh time, played in

the OVC championship game for the third time and accomplished a 20-win season for the third time in Murray State history.

In April, Felton resigned her position as head women's basketball coach, which she had held since 2003, and took the head coaching position at the University of Central Florida.

"I feel excited," Felton said. "I've got mixed emotions because I'm leaving behind a lot of young ladies who mean a lot to me, and a lot of people I've built great relationships with."

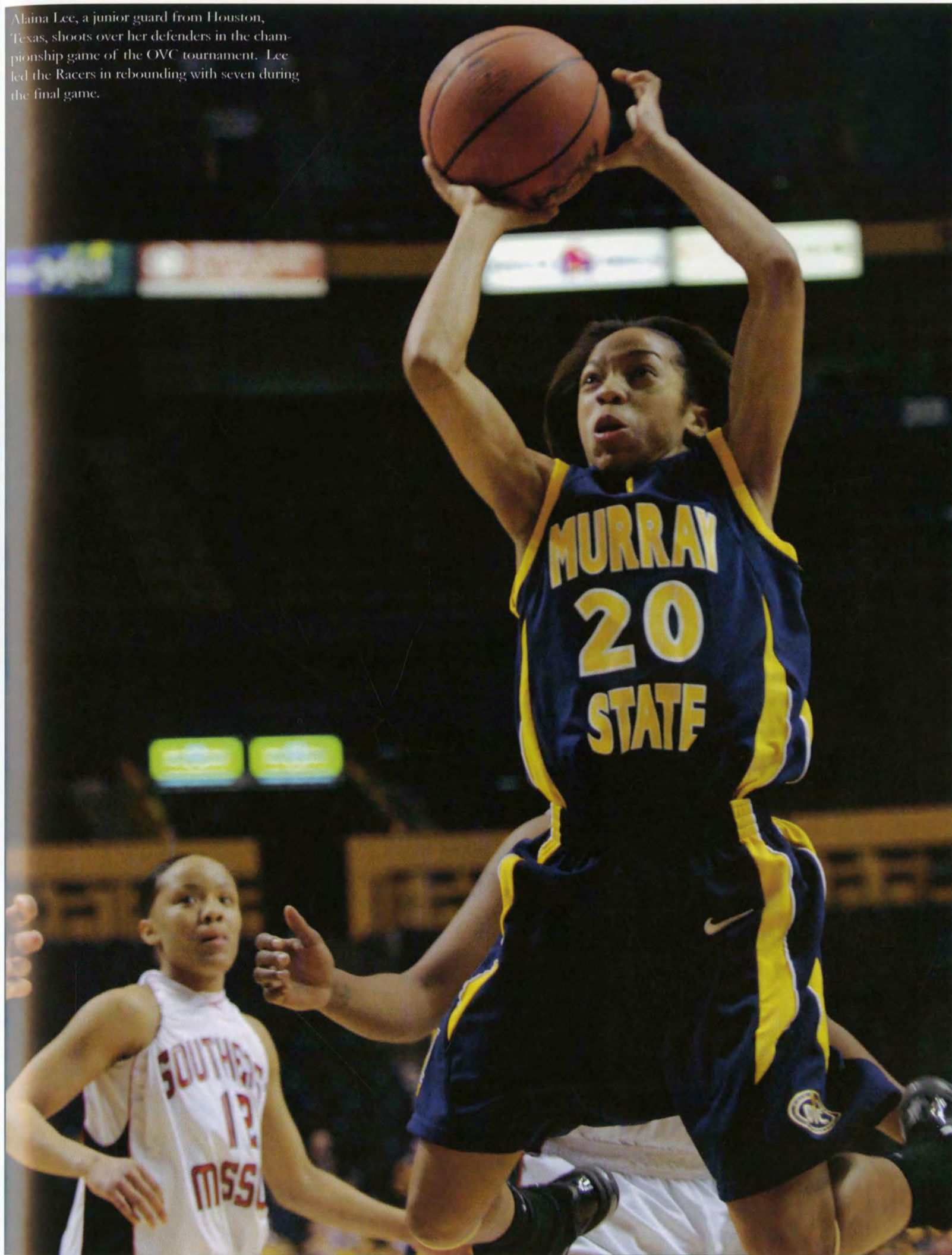
In addition to Scott, the seniors for this year's Lady Racers were Erica Gordian, Ashley Brooke Hayes and Gerraca Matthews.

Gordian, a forward/center from Elkton, hit the three-pointer that tied the OVC championship game with 17 seconds left to go, she finished the season with a 3.6 points per game average and a 3.0 rebounds per game average. Gordian's season highs were nine points against Cincinnati and seven rebounds against Jacksonville State.

Hayes, guard from Kokomo, Ind., completed her senior season with a 1.6 point per game average and a 0.8 rebound per game average. Her season highs were five points against Eastern Illinois and two rebounds twice against Kentucky State and Tennessee State.

Matthews, a guard from New Orleans, La., was unable to play because of an early-season injury.

Alaina Lee, a junior guard from Houston, Texas, shoots over her defenders in the championship game of the OVC tournament. Lee led the Racers in rebounding with seven during the final game.



story by ben amberg
photographs by kaia fox

The Thoroughbreds would need to return to the drawing board after a disappointing 2007 baseball season as they won a mere 18 games of their 53 game schedule.

Perhaps the beginning of the season was a sign of things to come as they lost nine of their first 10 games.

Despite the disappointing season, the 'Breds showcased some of their individual talent.

Before Murray State could record their first victory, catcher Jason Payton, a senior from Louisville, was named Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Week for the week ending Feb. 25. During that week, Payton hit homeruns in each of the first two games, boasted a batting average of .850, scored five runs and drove in seven.

The 'Breds were able to pick up their first victory in the first game of a double-header as they defeated Gardner-Webb 8-5.

On the mound, Jake Donze, a freshman from



Right-handed Daniel Harris, a sophomore from Tinley Park, Ill., releases a pitch at a home game against Southeast Missouri State. The Redhawks beat the Racers 2-1 in the three-game series.

St. Genevieve, Mo., was able to pick up his first collegiate victory and allowed two runs on six hits, struck out four and walked four in 5-2/3 innings.

"Jake Donze pitched well for us in the first game," head coach Rob McDonald said. "Our guys competed well."

The 'Breds showed signs of life and were able to sweep Samford, Ohio Valley Conference Preseason No. 1, No. 39 Memphis and Eastern Kentucky University.

Mike Perconte, a junior from Lisle, Ill., again showed the individual talent when he was named Ohio Valley Conference Pitcher of the Week for the week ended April 29. Perconte threw a complete-game two-hitter against Tennessee Tech in the first game of a double-header. After he allowed a single in the first inning, Perconte retired 18 of the next 19 batters, allowed one hit, then closed out the game for the 'Breds' first shutout of the season. Perconte boasted five strikeouts and only one walk in the game.

Southeast Missouri proved to be too much for the 'Breds when they eliminated Murray State in the first round of the O'Reilly Ohio Valley Conference Championship Tournament, 7-10. Murray State would go on to lose the elimination game to Eastern Kentucky, 2-5.

Despite an early exit from the tournament, four Murray State Thoroughbreds were able to snag All-OVC honors.

Center fielder Tyler Pittman, a senior from Wickliffe, was named to the All-OVC First Team. Pittman finished his final season with a .490 batting average, setting school career records in hits, doubles and at-bats.

James Akin, a senior from Hopkinsville, Seth Hudson, a senior from Cape Girardeau, Mo., and Tyler Owen, a sophomore from Evansville, Ind., were all named to the All-OVC Second Team.

Akin hit .312 this season and was the shared defensive first baseman of the season. Akin led the 'Breds in hits in conference games with 38, and was third on the squad in runs with 20 and RBIs with 19.

Hudson was able to set a new career hits record this season. He also had the team's longest hitting streak this season at 13 games. He was one triple behind both the Murray State career and single-season records.

Owen, only a sophomore, was named to the All-OVC Second Team as an at-large nominee. He led the OVC in hitting with an average of .398 and slugging with an average of .580 in conference games for much of the season.



Tyler Owen, a sophomore from Evansville, Ind., rounds first base as the umpire signals his hit a fair ball. Owen was later named to the All-OVC Second Team.

baseball

[thoroughbreds face difficult season]



@ Louisville
 @ Lexington
 @ Mississippi State
 vs. Arkansas State
 @ Gardner-Webb
 vs. Evansville
 vs. Southern Illinois
 vs. South Dakota State
 vs. Indiana State
 @ Southern Illinois
 @ Samford
 vs. Belmont
 vs. Southeast Missouri
 @ Arkansas State
 @ Eastern Illinois

L 2-12
 L 5-8
 L 9-17, 1 13, 5-10
 L 7 12
 W 8-5; L 6-8, 4-14
 L 1 19
 W 9-8
 L 7-10, 3-4; W 4-3
 L 1-5, 2-20, 4-12
 L 4-7
 W 6-5, 4-3; L 4-7
 L 8-10
 L 5-6, 3-17; W 6-5
 L 8-9
 L 2-11, W 15-4

vs. Memphis
 vs. Eastern Kentucky
 @ Evansville
 vs. Freed-Hardeman
 @ Morehead State
 @ Mississippi
 vs. Tennessee Tech
 @ Belmont
 @ Tennessee Martin
 vs. Austin Peay
 vs. Jacksonville State
OVC Tournament
 vs. Southeast Missouri
 vs. Eastern Kentucky

W 14-12, 7-6
 W 6-5, 3-2
 L 5-7
 W 14-4
 W 16-12, 13-6; L 3-5
 L 9-0
 W 11-0; L 11 15, 5-10
 L 1-8
 W 10-6; L 9-10, 5-8
 L 3-7, 15-3; W 7-6
 W 6-3; L 1-2, 0-12
 L 7 10
 L 2-5

intramurals

[non-athletes participate in sporting events]



Residential College Results

Softball

-Women & Men: Hart

Flag Football

Women: Springer

-Men: Elizabeth & Franklin

Basketball

-Women: Richmond

-Men: White

Volleyball

-Women: White

-Men: Elizabeth

Soccer

-Women: Hester

-Men: Regents

Sorority Results

Softball

-Alpha Sigma Alpha

Flag Football

-Sigma Sigma Sigma

Basketball

-Alpha Sigma Alpha

Volleyball

-Sigma Sigma Sigma

Soccer

-Alpha Sigma Alpha,
Sigma Sigma Sigma &
Alpha Omicron Pi

Fraternity Results

Softball

-Lambda Chi Alpha

Flag Football

-Lambda Chi Alpha

Basketball

-Sigma Phi Epsilon

Volleyball

-Alpha Sigma Phi

Soccer

-Sigma Phi Epsilon



Members of Alpha Delta Pi play soccer against another sorority on the field in front of the new Clark College. Alpha Sigma Alpha, Sigma Sigma Sigma and Alpha Omicron Pi had a three-way tie in the soccer division of intramural sports.

story by james johnson

It's the battle for bragging rights and a trophy between residential colleges, independent teams, fraternities and sororities, but there is only one champion in the end.

Intramural sports were offered year-round for students to enjoy. Murray State had an array of intramural sports to choose from, such as flag football, soccer, softball and volleyball.

With every sport, the divisions were split between residential colleges and the fraternities, sororities and independent teams.

Within the residential colleges, students competed for the title of All Sports Champion, one they liked to showcase to incoming freshmen and transfer students at Summer Orientation.

Fraternities and sororities were also very competitive because they wanted the bragging rights that came with winning to help boost numbers for pledging and rushing.

"I had a great time," Tyler Simmons, a sophomore Pi Kappa Alpha member from Murray, said. "All of our guys got together and competed. In a sense, it was a competition, but actually, we were messing around but got serious when need be. Whenever we won, we would all get together and do our cheer and go out to celebrate. Actually, win or lose, we would go out and celebrate."

Each sport could have only one champion from each division, who then had the opportunity to compete against another champion in the same sport at another university.

"I compete in intramural sports because I'm a competitor and it gives me something to do besides my school work," said Terrell Cooper, a junior from Georgetown who was a member of the independent basketball team Chaos.

Cooper's team had a good season, but ended up falling to Hester College in the second round of playoffs.

"Next year we don't plan on going out in the second round of the tournament," Cooper said. "We are in it for the long run and we plan on winning the whole tournament."

Many who competed in intramural sports were students who just wanted to have fun and relax, as

well as get away from the books for a while.

"I feel that intramurals did just that for me," said Kendrick Quisenberry, a junior from Louisville who was a member of Chaos' independent flag football team. "It gives me relaxation at times and it's definitely fun. And the only reason besides that for why I actually played flag football is because I'm trying to go to the league like Emmitt Smith."



Students fight for the upper hand during an intramural volleyball game in Carr Health. The men of Alpha Sigma Phi and Elizabeth College won the volleyball tournaments for fraternities and residential colleges.

story by james johnson

During the school year, Murray State had 14 official club sports, with eight of them active throughout the year.

"At any given time the club sports can become active," said Alison Epperson, Coordinator of Recreational Programs/Campus Recreation. "It varies by semester, depending on leadership, such as if the club sport has a coach or not."

The active club sports were bass anglers, cycling, women's field hockey, men's soccer, men's rowing, men's rugby, swimming and tennis.

Some of the other club sports that were offered were: fencing, paintball, ultimate frisbee, lacrosse and triathlon.

"So far, we have done well this year," Aaron Butler, a sophomore men's rowing team member from Owensboro said. "We have a couple of bronze and gold medals. We have also made it to the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association."

Club sports at Murray State differentiated from regular NCAA sports and other university club sports in some aspects of the particular sport. Sports were more complex and structured on the NCAA level than on the club level.

"At Murray State's level of club sports, at the end of the season there is not a champion determined," Epperson said. "Bass anglers and cycling are the two most likely sports, if any, to be involved in a championship."

Both teams, along with the men's rowing club, competed in national tournaments during the year.

"For [more] Murray State [club sports] to be on the level of championships, there would have to be a lot of work done with a lot of dedication," Epperson said.

However, the majority of the club sport teams on campus were satisfied with their progress as they drew larger numbers of students to join them and competed against schools from across the country.



James Combs, a sophomore from Murray, competes in a cycling race at the University of Missouri. The race, held in Columbia, Mo., was for regional cycling club teams. photograph by kaia fox



The men's rowing team's varsity-eight races in Oklahoma City, Okla. The team competed in the Midwest Intercollegiate Rowing Association's tournaments, through which they went up against teams from other colleges and universities. photograph courtesy of caitlin dunnagan

club sports

[competitive teams represent murray state]



[teams]

Active Club Sports:

Bass Anglers
Cycling
Women's Field Hockey
Men's Soccer

Men's Rowing
Men's Rugby
Swimming
Tennis

honors program
alpha kappa psi
adventure racing
band
newspaper deadline night
grow
campus ministries
organization photos
shield staff



photograph by elaine kight

The Racers Band performs its *Thriller* number during halftime at a football game. The band, under the direction of John Fannin, also performed at the 2006 Bands of America Grand Nationals Competition.

[organizations]

alpha kappa psi

[business fraternity develops
leaders, impacts community]

Megan VonBokel, Eric Elliott, Katie Rogers, Allison Anders, Kortni Reese, Joshua Jones, alumnus Derek Hunter, Megan Dodson and Kimberly Bridges accept their award for improvement of the Annual Chapter Report. The students received the award at Alpha Kappa Psi's annual Success Institute, which was held to help students focus on building their skills individually.

story by elaine kight
photographs courtesy of kimberly bridges

With outstanding alumni such as Sam Walton, Ronald Reagan and Samuel Hinkle, Alpha Kappa Psi, America's oldest professional business fraternity, has grown to more than 235,000 members strong since its founding in 1904.

The Eta Iota chapter at Murray State was one of 185 active chapters across college campuses in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom dedicated to "developing students into principled business leaders," according to its website.

Kimberly Bridges, a junior from Decatur, Ala., and Eric Elliott, a senior from Paris, Tenn., joined the fraternity to pad their résumés, but found they also gained valuable business skills and real-world experience.

"I wanted an outlet to practice what I learn in the classroom and AKPsi has let me do that," Bridges said.

Elliott said the fraternity's diversity was part of what helped it reach so many students. Alpha Kappa Psi was co-ed and open to students with all majors, as long as they had an interest in business.

Together, the students initiated a variety of activities to serve the campus and the community and to develop their business skills. Some of the events included a "Meet the Dean" day, résumé building workshops and guest speakers. Bridges' pledge class collected items to send to a soldier in Iraq and helped with the local Future Business Leaders of America competitions.

Besides building a bond between the members of the fraternity, Elliott said the social and community service events were a part of what helped him develop stronger business skills during his five semesters of involvement.

"I feel that I have gained many great skills and a stronger grasp on the business world by planning and executing the many activities we participate in as a team," he said.



Members of Alpha Kappa Psi gather after their Spring 2007 initiation ceremonies. The business fraternity held several events throughout the year to connect what students were learning in the classroom to real-world situations.



As graduation approached and Elliot began job interviews, he attributed his confidence and success to his experience with Alpha Kappa Psi, and he said potential employers were eager to hear about his involvement with the organization.

Bridges said she learned more from her involvement in Alpha Kappa Psi than any class she had taken. "I've learned so much as far as organization, time management, dealing with people, leadership and event planning," she said. "All of these aspects are needed in life, especially in the business world."

honors program

[honors program provides rigorous academics, lifelong friends]

story by elaine kight

Randa Gozum, a junior from Jackson, Tenn., and Jessica Moore, a junior from Dexter, Mo., perfect their togas at the Honors Program's toga party. The program sponsored various events for its members throughout the year to help everyone get to know each other better. photograph by sarah peddie



Jason Hinson was an honors graduate of Murray State, and he had the Honors Diploma to prove it.

For Hinson, a senior from Cumberland City, the piece of parchment represented only a small portion of his involvement with the Honors Program. Honors students said they were initially attracted to the program for its rigorous academic expectations, but they remained involved because of the social aspects of the organization.

The Honors Program offered students an alternative to the University Studies curriculum through challenging courses and smaller class settings. Requirements to graduate with honors included the honors class sequence, a study abroad program and an honors thesis. Optional social activities organized by the Honors Program Student Council gave students the opportunity to connect with other honors students.

Katie Marks, a senior from Louisville, said she joined the program for the small class sizes and harder courses, and found a social network where she was "challenged and simultaneously supported by fellow members and faculty."

Marks participated in many events through the organization, ranging from the Honors Program Student Council to All-Campus Sing to Roundtable and Nerdball (the Honors Program's code name for flag football), but she said she was proud of the "HPers" social involvement throughout campus. "We don't just stay in a tight little circle," she said. "We take leadership positions throughout the campus. That is what binds us together, not test scores or our GPAs."

There was value in going rock-climbing and grilling out with the same people that you saw in class, said Jessica Moore, a junior from Dexter, Mo., who benefited from the social community of the Honors Program. "You see the same faces in each of your Honors Classes," she said. "You immediately know that you are in a safe environment surrounded by friends. You become more open-minded to learning because you are in such a safe environment."

This learning community of the Honors Program extended beyond the classroom and encouraged other members to become involved on campus. Tamsyn Gardner, a freshman from Poplar Bluff, Mo., said she joined the program to meet motivated people with good grades. She found she also met a group of people highly involved in

Members of the Honors Program perform a medley of songs from *The Nightmare Before Christmas* at All Campus Sing. The group performed at the annual event as a way to increase camaraderie among its members. photograph by paul holladay



many areas of campus. Because of this, Gardner said she always knew everything from the latest musical on campus to what the carpentry club was doing the next weekend.

For Chris McEachron, a senior from Louisville, the Honors Program experience "has been my college experience." He joined the organization as a freshman because he was eligible, but now, he said, "more than any other group I belong to, HP is my group of friends and social network."

Said Tyler Powell, a senior from Erin, Tenn.: "Since we are such a diverse group, we never have a boring moment. Any obstacle that we come across, there is almost always somebody who is talented in that area. These

are not merely college buddies or colleagues, these are lifelong friends."

adrenaline rush

[adventure racing gives students
opportunity to brave the elements]

story by samantha gebert
photographs courtesy of jim marks

Concentrating on the obstacles ahead, Katie Marks, a senior from Louisville, finishes repelling down a mountain and hikes toward its top. Marks was one of several competitors on Murray State's team in the Fig IV race held on Nov. 4 at the Daniel Boone National Forest and Natural Bridge State Park.



Olympic medalist Michael Johnson finishes a race in a little over 19 seconds. World record holder Flo-Jo finishes a race in just under 11 seconds. However, it takes Chris McEachron and his Adventure Racing team 43,200 seconds to complete a race, and that's a short one.

McEachron, a senior from Louisville, founded the Murray State Adventure Racing Team after competing in some races in New Zealand.

"Adventure Racing is a multi-disciplinary sport," McEachron said. "Usually it involves trailing, mountain biking, kayaking or paddling, some sort of rope skills like climbing or rappelling and it's navigation based. You have to use a map and a compass to figure out where you're at. The trails aren't marked or anything."

The team competed in four- and six-hour races, and even a few 12-hour ones. McEachron said they hoped to enter some 24- and 48-hour races.

Before a race, the support crew or the individual racers placed their bikes and kayaks where they needed to be along the route. However, racers had no idea how to get to those locations until the race actually began.

Fifteen minutes before each race began a meeting was held with the team captains, and each was given an envelope with a map and the coordinates for each checkpoint. They were also given instructions on how to get to each point, whether by bike, kayak or foot. The first few minutes of the races were spent planning a route and plotting a course.

"It's based on completing all the checkpoints within a certain amount of time," McEachron said. "How you do that, as far as distance, is up for grabs. It changes for every individual. Strategy comes in when you have to figure out how to utilize your time to your best advantage."

Longer races required more planning time. Weight of gear, time, sleep and food all had to be taken into consideration before and during a race. The team had to decide whether to stop and sleep or continue throughout the entire race without stopping, and where to sleep if they decided to stop. They also had to decide how to get the nutrients they needed without carrying heavy loads on their backs.

Eric Wilson, a senior from Ft. Thomas, also competed in New Zealand with McEachron.

"I've been in two adventure races, the Red River Gorge and the Natchez Race," Wilson said. "The Natchez Race was six hours and the Red River Gorge was 12."

Wilson said he enjoys everything involved in adventure racing.

"I really like kayaking and Chris really likes trail riding, and we're both decent navigators," Wilson said. "We both really enjoyed the race we did in New Zealand and came back and decided to try to start a club and find out about races in the area."

A member of Murray State's Adventure Racing team kayaks across a river. Each leg of the race brought a different challenge for the team, which they had to face by walking, kayaking, climbing or biking.



Rachel Hopper, a graduate student from Evansville, Ind., also competed in the Red River Gorge race.

"I'm interested in a lot of outdoor stuff," Hopper said. "The reason I raced with them is because one of their team members got sick so I was a last minute stand-in. I just like to do fun stuff like that."

Although they did not officially finish in the Red River Gorge race, the team was not upset.

"Something like 68 percent of the teams that entered didn't finish," Wilson said. "There are checkpoints in the gorge that you have to get to, and other points that if you reach they take time off, like bonus points. Most people have a hard time getting to those mandatory checkpoints."

Whether they reached all the checkpoints or not, the team still worked together and learned with each race they entered.

"It's about the experience," Wilson said. "We really take that to heart going into the races. We make sure all the team members know that we're going to stay together as a team. We'll take the pace of the slowest person in each of those legs. In the cycling part I might lead, in the running part Chris might lead, someone else will do map and compass. It's more about the experience and working together. We have a blast whether we win, lose or don't finish at all."

racer band

[bands of america grand nationals gives
band members opportunity of a lifetime]

story by stephanie harrington
photographs courtesy of cindi cripps

James Kyle Damron, Eric Dunsford and Zack Coffey warm up with their sousaphones before the Bands of America exhibition performance. The band played twice during the national competition.



Performing in front of 90 schools and nearly 50,000 spectators might be daunting for some, but for the Racer Band, it was an honor.

The band traveled to Indianapolis, Ind., in November to accept a prestigious invitation to perform at the 2006 Bands of America Grand Nationals Competition. Typically, two university bands are invited to perform in honor of the excellence of their shows from the previous year. However, the Racer Band was given an even better and rarer opportunity: to perform in the exhibition show not once, but twice.

"Performing at BOA Grand Nationals was insane," Matt Mothersbaugh, a junior from Madisonville, said. "With over twenty thousand people in the stands, it was amazing!"

John Fannin, band director and show writer, was not surprised that the band was invited to perform at the national competition. "We have an outstanding group this year," he said. "We're deeper in talent than ever before."

Mothersbaugh agreed with Fannin. "There was a very noticeable increase in talent this year," he said. "Everything just clicked."

Because of its long-standing history of excellence, the Racer Band drew many performers, particularly non-music majors. The band was comprised of nearly 70 percent non-music majors, which Fannin attributed to the ownership the students have.

"This is their group," he said. "The members learn to work together in a large group for a single product. It's also a very tight-knit group, and since they come to school early, a lot of them make their first connections here. And playing music is always a fun way to relieve stress."

Unlike many other college and high school programs, the Racer Band is not competitive. Some of the band members requested to change the program to a competitive one, but Fannin remained adamant that it would not.

"There's enough competition at the high school level," he said. "I wrote shows for high schools during the summer, and I've directed at the high school level. I was a crazy competitive high school band director. It's too much for the band members, and it's too much for me. Now, in college, it's about entertainment. There is a different purpose in Racer Band shows than high school shows. It's all about pleasing the

Members of the Racer Band perform at the first of two showcases at the Bands of America Grand Nationals Competition. The competition was held in Indianapolis, Ind.



crowd.”

And please the crowd it did. The band’s shows during the year consisted of *Bohemian Rhapsody* by Queen and a rendition of *In the Mood*, a tune many alumni attending the football games were able to recognize.

At the end of their shows, the band always exited the field and ran to the front of the stadium to play to the crowd while doing horn flashes and dancing to the tunes, in an attempt to get the crowd involved. During games, different band members left the band section to go to different parts of the stadium and play so the crowds on the outskirts of the stadium were able to enjoy their performance as well.

Racer Band officially ended with the football season and their performance at the BOA Grand Nationals Competition. However, the band members and Fan-nin did not let the basketball season go unnoticed. Pep band, while not comprised of nearly as many members, played at the Regional Special Events Center to get the crowds motivated for the Racer Basketball season.

“I’m glad I had the opportunity to participate in Racer Band while at Murray State,” Brandon McKnight, a junior band member from Dawson Springs, said.

pressed for time

[newspaper staff spends sleepless nights preparing weekly paper]

story and photographs by claine kight

Elizabeth Cawein regularly stayed up almost all night working on a 16-page paper that she never received a grade for.

She was not alone.

Cawein, a senior from Memphis, Tenn., was the editor in chief of *The Murray State News*, Murray State's student-produced newspaper that was published nearly every Friday throughout the year. Once a week, on deadline night, she worked with four section editors and a handful of photographers and advertising managers until the wee hours of the morning to prepare the newspaper for press.

The production of each paper began long before the "crunch time" of deadline night, Cawein said. The editorial board, composed of Cawein, News Editor Emily Wuchner, Opinion Editor Rochelle Gray, Campus Life Editor Casey Northcutt and Sports Editor Tommy Dillard, met every Sunday night to decide what stories to include in each section.

Once story topics were decided upon, the section editors assigned the topics to their writers, who interviewed sources, drafted their stories and visited the newsroom for writing coaching. During coaching time, editors helped writers think of new questions to ask their sources and new ways to approach their stories.

All articles were due on deadline day, which was on Wednesday. The staff was responsible for every single aspect of the newspaper, from photographs to headlines, articles to captions. After copy editors made changes to the stories, the section editors laid them out on the page and returned the pages to the copy desk for three more rounds of editing. When this process was complete, Cawein read over each page to approve it.

Though this cycle may sound neat and tidy, Cawein said no two nights were ever the same in the newsroom. "Something always goes wrong, but we always have fun," she said. "The product is so worth it."

Casey Northcutt, a junior from Benton, said the process was not as clear-cut as it sounded on paper. "It's gets pretty hectic having to make sure all the stories are in with pictures and art," she said. "A lot of times you don't have all that."

The section editors estimated they spent 12-15 hours each Wednesday night in the newsroom preparing the paper for press. For Tommy Dillard, a junior from Germantown, Tenn., every waking hour of most Wednesdays was spent either in class, eating or in the newsroom.

Those long hours often included a variety of tasks that don't come with the job description. "There are always distractions, like you have to find pictures, answer questions," Dillard said. "There's always something going on."

Visual Editor Jeff Slinker, a junior from Murray, was responsible for producing the photo illustrations and editing photographs for the paper. He agreed that the long hours spent in the newsroom on deadline night weren't without distraction—sometimes he was the source of his own distraction, he said.

During October, distractions came in the form of a national sports championship

Editor in chief Elizabeth Cawein begins work on the front page spread. "When the front page is finished, I really feel like the paper starts to come together," she said.



Section editors work to complete stories and layouts for *The News* on a deadline night. The staff said deadline nights generally lasted until 2 or 3 in the morning.



series. "Sometimes you have to watch baseball games," Dillard, a die-hard Cardinals fan, said. During the World Series, Dillard relocated his desk in the newsroom for a better view of the television.

Northcutt admitted that some of her favorite moments in the newsroom on deadline night included "watching Sliker and Burris play Frisbee across rows of computers or walking around with illustration props and hitting people with them."

Regardless, "somehow, the paper always comes out," Northcutt said.

Once Cawein had approved everything, the final product was sent to press Thursday at 3 p.m., and the staff breathed a "big sigh of relief, because there's an-

other one down," Cawein said.

The work was still not over. Fridays were spent fielding questions, comments and complaints about the paper, and the staff began the production of the next paper again on Sundays.

For Cawein, this process of producing *The News* each week was well worth the weekly stresses of putting all the pieces together. "Depending on what you write about, you could make someone's day, or you could offend someone," Cawein said. "You have to decide what is newsworthy to a campus of 10,000. That's what makes this job such a wonderful experience."

giving back

[mentor program pairs college
and middle school students]

story and photographs by elaine kight

Whitney Franke, a senior from Lexington, shares an after school snack with Sarah Jones, her little sister. GROW was a mentoring program that met on Wednesdays at Calloway County Middle School.



GROW, which stands for Growing into Respected Outstanding Women, was a mentoring program sponsored by the Murray State Women's Center that paired college women with girls who attended Calloway County Middle School.

Twenty-eight pairs of "big sisters and little sisters" met each Wednesday as a group to discuss issues the students faced, such as family, body image, women's issues, conflict resolution, values, gender roles, leadership, self-esteem and friendships/relationships, said Jill Ligon, a senior from Lexington who co-coordinated the program.

During these meetings, "[GROW] provides [students] with a safe, open environment to share their feelings and ideas, talk to us, get to know us and help us to get to know them," said Robyn Smith, a sophomore from Paducah and big sister in the mentoring program.

Sisters also met several times a month to spend time one-on-one. "We'll take our little sisters out for dinner or to a movie—just little fun things to let them know we're thinking about them," Smith said.

Whitney Franke, a senior from Lexington, took her little sister out to eat at Dump-lins because she had never been and wanted to go. "She loved it and we had so much fun talking," Franke said. The pair discovered they shared a love for tennis and hoped to play when the weather warmed up.

Other activities GROW sisters found to do together included attending events on campus or at the middle school, movies, dinner, shoe shopping, sporting events and even game nights. However the sisters spent time together, the big sisters said they focused on being friends and mentors to their middle school students, helping the girls through situations they had also faced as young teenagers.

Several Murray State students said their own middle school experiences motivated them to become involved in GROW. "I remember how hard middle school was for me," Ligon said. "It's a time when you are dealing with so many different issues and dealing with wanting to gain independence and wanting to grow up."

Smith also hoped to help middle school girls have a better experience than her own. "I had so much trouble in my own middle school, and I felt like a positive impact like this program has on these girls would have really benefited me had I had that opportu-

Calloway County Middle School students relax before the start of their GROW meeting. The students spent time with their big sisters and discussed various issues they were facing as adolescents.



nity," she said.

After only knowing her one week, Smith said she saw a change in her little sister. "At first she was very shy, had very low self esteem and didn't talk to anyone," she said, "but now she's participating, smiling and laughing and she seems to really enjoy the program."

Sometimes, though, it was the little sister who made an impact on her older sister. Franke said her little sister's goals encouraged her to go after her own dreams. "My little sister has so many ambitions in life and she is working toward accomplishing them," she said.

Whether out to lunch, at a meeting or watching a movie, the big sisters said seeing their little sisters brightens their day. Said Ligon: "They can make me

forget the other stresses in my life and always make me smile. I think it is important for us to remember as college women what it was like to live as a middle schooler. There are still things that we can learn from them also."

keep the faith

[campus ministries help students stay strong in college]

story and photographs by elaine kight

"Fifty percent of Christian college students lose their faith--or at least have made it a low priority--by the time they graduate," David Wheaton, author of *University of Destruction*, said in his book aimed at helping college students keep their faith. However, students and ministers who were part of Murray State's 13 campus ministries hoped to keep students from becoming a part of this statistic.

Clayton Vertrees, a sophomore from Owensboro, heard a similar statistic when he came to Murray State as a freshman. "Many people feel they drift away from or come closer to their faith in college," he said. "I wanted to be one of those that come closer."

Vertrees said his involvement in the Wesley Foundation helped him become involved in a local church. "Wesley Foundation's relationships with some of the local churches help students to find a church in college that they can become part of and feel at home in," he said.

Involvement in Christ Ambassadors also helped students find a church home, Morgan Larkins, a sophomore from Bardwell, said. "We have Sunday School in Elizabeth Hall at 9:45 a.m. and we're willing to give students a ride to any church in town."

Bible studies, mission trips, service projects, prayer meetings and worship services were other ways Larkins said Christ Ambassadors helped her grow in her Christian faith and make friends on campus. "I've met amazing people who are now my friends and people that I enjoy spending time with," she said.

"Deep life-long relationships" were made at Ministry Open to All, with marriages coming from the group, campus minister David Montgomery said.

Ministries connected students to each other and to God, said Mark Whitt, campus minister at the Baptist Campus Ministry. "Being involved in a campus ministry gives students the opportunity to grow alongside students their own age going through the same joys and struggles, and lets them be real with those around them," he said. "There are friendships that are made through campus ministry that are genuine and life-changing."

Whitt was a student at Murray in the 1990s and attended activities at the ministry he now leads. As a student, Whitt said, "The ministry of the BCM was a place I could grow in my faith in Christ, be challenged to think and be able to serve others through a body of believers."

Now, as a campus minister, Whitt has the opportunity to serve students like he once was served. Through the BCM, students attended weekly worship and prayer services, experienced local and distant missions opportunities and participated in a sign language team, prayer meetings and various fellowship events, all of which brought students closer to God and each other.

No matter what their level of involvement, Whitt said he hoped students experienced God at the BCM. "I pray that this ministry will continue to impact the lives of students with the incredible love of Jesus and encourage students to be who we have been called to be," he said.

Aimee Buntin, a senior from Brentwood, said her friends at the Baptist Campus Ministry were instrumental in helping her grow in her faith. "I have friends around the BCM that keep me accountable and that's a hard thing to come by," she said. "I've made some friends there that will last a lifetime and I know when I enter that building it's home."

A homey feeling was a characteristic that drew other students to a campus ministry. "I felt that remaining within a believing 'family' of sorts was important in maintaining my relationship with Christ," said Magdalene Beam, a freshman from Belleville, Ill., who was involved in the Wesley Foundation.

Beam's minister, the Rev. Emily Burch, said she has seen students find a family at Wesley. "I've never experienced the body of Christ anywhere else in as powerful a way as I did when I was a part of campus ministry as a student, and as far as I can tell, it is the same for our students here at Murray State Wesley," she said.

Students and faculty gather for prayer during the nationwide *See You at the Pole* event on Sept. 27. The United Campus Ministries Association sponsored the annual prayer meeting to encourage students to pray for their campus, their nation and their world.



Kasey Tobin, Magdalene Beam, Jennifer Crawford, Amanda Crider, Justin Holland and the Rev. Emily Burch ride the Wesley Foundation float in the Homecoming Parade. The Wesley Foundation was a United Methodist campus ministry that met weekly for worship, fellowship and Bible study.



Beyond giving students a place to call home, Burch said campus ministries could help them find a calling for their lives. “Students leave their campus ministry experience knowing how they are gifted and where God is calling them to serve,” she said. Burch cited a fact from a seminary professor which stated more students hear a calling to full-time Christian ministry through being involved in a campus ministry than by attending a Christian college.

Murray State alumnus Karen Welch said her heart for college students and a love for the campus led her to give back through campus ministry. Her ministry, New Life Campus Ministry, focused on feeding students spiritually and sending them out to make a difference.

“We encourage our students and adults to be involved out of the church and in the community—impacting their world with faith and the love and mercy of Jesus Christ,” she said.

Burch said students could expect not only to encounter God, but to experience changes that last a lifetime.

Said Burch: “If you want to experience real love and acceptance, if you want to grow close to other people and make faithful, life-long friends, if you want to be a part of a group where you can speak the truth, be honest with yourself about yourself, seek God’s guidance and find folks who challenge you and walk with you during your college years, you’ll find that in campus ministry.”

[advertising club]



Front Row: Amanda Bates, Meredith March. Back Row: Brent Bauscher, Brian A. Trushey, Alicia Carrington.

Ads Club is designed for students with a major or minor in advertising, marketing or public relations. The club meets weekly to work on an advertising campaign, which is entered into a regional competition sponsored by the American Advertising Federation. The Ads Club also invites area professionals to meet with its members.

[agriculture ambassadors]

A select group of students who are chosen to be Agriculture Ambassadors work to recruit students to Murray State. They participate in summer orientation sessions, visits to high schools throughout the year and other promotional and recruiting events throughout the country.



Front Row: Sarah Baker, Danielle Stone. Second Row: Johanna Penick, Melissa Bramlet, Elizabeth Dunn, Andi Lear. Back Row: Whitney Shirley, Joel Perkins, Haley Millwood.

[agriculture leadership council]

The ALC is comprised of the members from each organization in the school of agriculture as well as freshmen representatives and Student Government Association senators. They meet weekly, and organize one major event each semester. In the fall they host "Fall on the Farm," an educational agricultural event for area elementary schools held at Pullen Farm. In the spring, they host the "Excellence in Agriculture" career fair for Ag Day to help agriculture students find jobs and internships in their areas of interest.



Front Row: Melissa Bramlet, Johanna Penick, Stephanie Carden, Emily Jane Bridges. Second Row: Franklin Mitchell, Whitney Shirley, Teresa Ferguson, Rachel Barksdale, Haley Millwood, Derek Lawson. Back Row: Joel Perkins, Derek Stegemoller, Lucas Choate, Jordan Parr, Carl Jay Jenkins.

[alpha mu gamma]



Front Row: Katie Oller. Back Row: Philadelphia Bruss, Karissa Ramey.

Alpha Mu Gamma is a national foreign language honor society dedicated to promoting the acquisition of foreign languages and understanding among cultures. Their activities include Study Abroad Speak Out and Career Roadmap.

[athletic trainer's association]



The mission of the Athletic Trainer's Association is to promote education and advancement of the athletic training profession. They also work to serve as a source of learning and research, as well as the common interests and needs of the membership.

Front Row: Aimee Gueda, Courtney Magness, Rachel McKoy, Mackenzie Gross. Second Row: Andrew Beyke, Kristin Schaefer, Katie Murphy, Kimberly Dyer, Tracy Winter. Back Row: Michael Bittel, Steven Herrenbruck, Barrett Mattingly, Lori Woodard.

[campus activities board]

CAB is the programming branch of the Student Government Association.



Front Row: Jessica Stone, Casie Janet, Jeanie Morgan, Lane Davis, Alli Nance. Second Row: Robyn Ryan, Kelli Eckdahl, OJ Graczyk, Whitney Bush. Back Row: Clark Gwaltney, Hilary Fackler, Eric King, Phillip DuVentre, Tim Kane.

[christ ambassadors]

Christ Ambassadors hosts Bible studies, small groups, daily prayer meetings, special speakers, Christian concerts and many other events. They reach the community through weekly nursing home visits and working with Murray's Salvation Army. They also have a global impact through their annual overseas mission trips.



Front Row: Jessica Weatherford, Molly Jean Runyan, Crystal Rieheman, Jessica Johnston, Adrienne Blanton, Erin Silliman. Second Row: Krystal Nance, Erin Holtzclaw, Steven Sun, Megan Polk, Chrissy Williams, Tamara Howard. Third Row: Lisa Schmidt, Danielle Stefko, Rachel Grisham, Rebecca Reynolds, Kevin Foutch, Bryce Norris, Todd Broker, Jennifer Lofland, Trexie Armstrong, Gabrielle Hobbs, Katie Oller. Fourth Row: Bryan Settle, Allison Crump, Joshua Lambert, Meagan Short, Eric Underhill, Patrick Duttweiler, Barry Morris, Jenni Siler, James Tortarelli, Shannon Nichols, Philip Anderson. Back Row: Mark Randall, Jason Stinnett, Julie Reeves, Jesse Grisham, Chance Badge, Paul Hefner, Jason Fort, Joe Whitis, Bryan Morgan, Gabriel Akec Kuai, Stefon Graves, Morgan Larkins, Kevin Spitle.



Front Row: Chungha Lee, Natasha Ennels, Jessica Beaty, Bekah Clay, Siriwadee Sabpipatana, Cathy Frederick, Jeannette Gonzalez. Second Row: Gooyeon Bae, Katie Gagel, Ali Reckord, Dana Tobin, Cassie Teague, Aileen Ying Wang, Ruth Awoniyi, Tomoko Imura. Third Row: Misun Seo, Mary Wallace, Becky Lile, Rachel Neff, Rhea Flanery, Sandie Yarborough, Sarah Holliday, Jonathan Frederick, Bethany Walker, Jennifer Lofland, Diana Trantham, Richard Lin. Fourth Row: Hyunho Jung, Seongeun Kim, Ilwook Park, Kara Hussmann, David Butler, Daniel Davis, Kaylee Marks, Julia Watkins, Cheryl Tilley, Jordan Kelleher, Jieun Soung, Yumi Ogido. Back Row: Jake, Jung Yoen Jong, Mark Randall, Kathleen Brooks, H.L. Hussmann, Paul Lile, Ryan Brooks, Justin Ferrell, Bryan Gramenz, Lester Hung, James Poindexter, Greg Brotzge.

[clark residential college council]



The purpose of Clark's Residential College Council is to promote planned activities, unite students with faculty, participate in various University organizations and special activities, improve the academic and athletic quality of college life, promote the residential college model, run as a self-governing body and encourage all members to become involved and invested in Clark and its activities.

Front Row: Stephanie Thacker, Amanda Brown, Kathe Payne Boget, Julia R. Garner, Hope Browning, Michelle Caito, Sarah Tomlin. Second Row: Heather Stroupe, Chris Hopper, Jenelle Weinert, Whitney York, Kim Simmons, Kim Smith, Molly Williams. Third Row: Jonathan Watkins, Tiffany Hedrick, Marianne Merrick, Jonathan Baldrige, Robby Croft, Jon LaVenture, David Hardin, Wilson Aina, Ashley Fellure. Fourth Row: Adam Morton, Colin Lee, Aaron Butler, Michel Clemens, Jeffrey Fleenor, Steve Horwood, Josh Connors, Jacob Page, Jacob Clinard.

[college republicans]



The purpose of College Republicans is to not only gain a better understanding of the political process, but also to promote core conservative and Republican values openly on campus and in the community. The group sponsors local political debates, hosts distinguished speakers, campaigns for local candidates and helps with various activities throughout the community.

Front Row: Elizabeth Thornhill, Kaitlin Baetzel. Second Row: Jonathan Raj, Glenn Alex Chalker, Winfield Rose. Back Row: Jordan Smith, Aaron Officer, Mara Fluhr, Michael Siebold.

[cycling team]

The cycling team competes in mountain and road races throughout the region. They compete in the Midwest Collegiate Cycling Conference against schools from seven states, and have gone to national championships in Angelfire, N.M., and Seven Springs, Pa.



Front Row: James Combs, Eric Wilson. Back Row: Luke Nowlin, Landon Loepker, Jeff Viniard.

[gamma beta phi]

Gamma Beta Phi is a national honor service society. Its members participate in various volunteer activities, such as the Better World Book Drive, can drives for needline and they work to raise awareness and goods for the animal shelter. Gamma Beta Phi members maintain an academic ranking within the top 20 percent of their class.



Front Row: Casey Helton, Katie Just, Jessie Pirtle. Second Row: Christi Drane, Jeanie Doom, Tiffany Hedrick, Stefanie Davenport. Back Row: Britaney Bailor, Bridgette Bailor, Christopher Smith, Michael Siebold, Samantha Travis, Xavier Garcia.

[hart residential college council]



Front Row: Meghan Poole, Allie Bryan, Chrsti Drane, Stoya England, Katie Pirie, Savannah Bryant. Second Row: Wesley Cullen, Matt Hunt, Ashleigh Wuddle, Tony Cardon, Dr. Ann Landini. Back Row: Brandon Boone, Philip Berardi, Jeremy Burris, Justin Crice, Ron Beaton, Leah Wood.

Hart Residential College Council is the student government in Hart College. They are responsible for the educational, cultural, social and athletic activities of the college.

[hester residential college council]



The Hester RCC is in place to establish activities and programs to help students who live in Hester grow and learn.

Front Row: Caitlin Dunnagan, Jordan Sangmeister, Kayla Riley, Carrie Brazelton, Katie Just, Amanda Needham. Second Row: Leah McCracken, Lyndsey Lowry, Casey Helton, Julie Conway, Dallas Jo Young, Erica VanBuren, Megan Parlss, Lucy Rini. Back Row: D.P. McCubbins, Derek Nance, Stephen Parker, Marc Goetz, Amanda Bates, Mitchell Ostrout, Rachel Just.

[honors program]

The Honors Program Student Council serves as the link between the academic and social sides of the honors program. The council hosts weekly meetings to plan social, fundraising, philanthropy and co-curricular activities. Beginning in the fall, the council adopted the libraries on campus as its philanthropy. In November, the Honors Program hosted the "Ballin' for Books" basketball tournament, which raised nearly \$1,000 toward the purchase of new books for the library. Aside from their philanthropy activities, the members of the honors program participate in the Kentucky and National Honors Roundtables, in which students present on a myriad of topics. The council is working hard to strengthen the bonds of its members while giving back to the University.



Front Row: Rachel Mauser, Lauren Allard, Katie Marks, Skyler Julian, Jessica Barker, Tamsyn Garner, Jennie Dickerson. Second Row: Nicole Fontanetta, Meg Black, Jessica Moore, Lucy Rini, Claire Davis, Alice M. Rogers, Tony Cardon, Edward Alan MaRowe. Third Row: Alana Seaborg, Steven Hart, Stephanie Galla, Beth Callahan, Tyler Powell, Kyle Smith, Jenny Wilkins, Benjamin Hart, Erin Black. Back Row: Charlie Adams, Jason Hinson, Eli Hooten, Brian Kinnaman, Chris McEachron, Nick Hooten, Ryan Walls, Justin Hammonds, Tyler Frank.

[horseman's club]

The Horseman's Club is committed to all things equestrian. They host two schooling shows per year and various equestrian clinics, assist in the care and well-being of the University's herd of horses and act as the parent organization of the equestrian teams.



Front Row: Leslie Lunsford, Mare Conner, Chelsea Scarberry, Naomi Whitt, Molly Peak. Second Row: Jessica Lindley, Megan Thweatt, Kelly Hoelscher, Rachel Neff, Sue Robinson, Sarah Holliday, Katherine O'Connell, Leah Rensung. Back Row: Julie Harrison, Jeremy Roark, Kelley Murphy, Heather Whelehon, Alex Blonder, Whitney Hungter, Katie Duggan, Don DeLaney.

[independent film association]



Front Row: Jorge Trinchet. Back Row: Drew McNally, Eric Hovis.

The Murray Independent Film Association's purpose is to provide students with knowledge and experience in the field of film and video production. It also gives students the chance to submit their work to national and international film festivals and other competitions.

[judicial board]



The Judicial Board serves as the judicial branch of the Student Government Association. With the responsibility of hearing all parking appeals, constitution questions and cases involving violations of the university code of conduct, the board balances the power of the executive and legislative branches of the Student Government Association. Members of the board meet weekly throughout the academic year.

Front Row: Lauren Lewis, Jennifer Glass, Joshua Jones. Back Row: Marc Goetz, Jason Hinson, LeeAnna Green, Jayson Spain.

[lambda alpha epsilon]

Lambda Alpha Epsilon, the American Criminal Justice Association, is purposed with improving criminal justice through educational activities, fostering professionalism in law enforcement, promoting awareness of criminal justice issues, encouraging higher education and professional training in criminal justice, providing a unified voice for criminal justice students and promoting high standards of ethical conduct, professional training and higher education within the criminal justice field.



Front Row: Kyle McLemore, Kaycee Bugbee. Second Row: Josh Bryant, Robert Brumley, Dr. Paul Lucko, Joshua Whitfield. Back Row: Brad Kenady, Stephen Parker, Mark Goetz, Harry Anderson.

[ministry open to all]

Ministry Open to All's mission is "to provide opportunities and create a sense of belonging through participation in study, service, fellowship and worship in a Christian atmosphere that is inviting and open to all." They are directly connected to the congregation of First Presbyterian Church in Murray. With the church's support, the group participates in worship in a number of ways, including drama, liturgy and choir. Members of the congregation "adopt" students, giving them a home away from home and strengthening relationships in fellowship. Members travel together on mission trips, help out with community service projects and explore beliefs in Bible studies, seeking to help students grow in faith and fellowship.



Front Row: Caroline Jones, Sarah Caudill, Meggan Berry. Back Row: David Montgomery, Andi Denney, Chris Bowers.

[mock trial team]



Front Row: Evan Espey. Second Row: Amanda Drake, Linda Grira. Back Row: Nathan Jaco, Tom Glover, Ben Rush.

The Mock Trial Team is made up of students majoring in political science and legal studies who are interested in getting real-world trial practice on campus.

[murray environmental student society]



Front Row: Zac Elmore, Kelly Harris, Caitlin Dunnagan. Back Row: Erin Black, Nolan Hapeman, Robert Tokosh, Jacob Hagen.

The Murray Environmental Student Society's purpose is to promote awareness and activism of environmental and conservation issues, while enjoying and engaging in outdoor recreational activities. They host speakers to talk about environmental issues, and post signs with environmental facts each month to promote awareness.

[non-traditional student association]

The NTSO, sponsored by the Center for Continuing Education and Academic Outreach, was organized in 1986 to provide an informal support group and social activities for non-traditional students and their families. The club's activities include participation in Tent City at Homecoming, a Halloween party for families, a Thanksgiving potluck and Dog Day in April.



Front Row: Billie Burton, Nan Harpole, Deanna Hoffman, Bradie Gipson. Back Row: Annette J. Heady, Sandra C. Wilson, Melanie King Bell, Jackie Hawes.

[phi mu alpha]

The development of true fraternal spirit, the mutual welfare and brotherhood of musical students, the advancement of music in America and a loyalty to the alma mater are all goals of Phi Mu Alpha. The group participates in All Campus Sing, Step Show, co-sponsors Campus Lights and teaches private lessons to middle school students.



Front Row: Max Krone, Matt Mothersbaugh, Timothy Lee, Josh Cole, Tyler Isbell. Second Row: Lincoln Rowe, Joshua M. Byrne, Alex Bruner, Brant Veal, Christopher Kent, Michael Stricklin, Marshall Shank, Cody Wells. Third Row: Kevin Dame, Brandon McKnight, Jacob Carroll, Matt Hightower, Jordan Snow, Andrew Lundy, Ryan Weldon, Zach Coffey. Back Row: Daniel Jaulk, Eric Dunsfon, Rob Waterford, Greg Neft, Joel Roberts, Sergio Cole, Lance Fulks, Lucas Hall, Jarrad Chests.

[pre-vet club]



The purpose of the Animal Health Technology/Pre-Vet Club is to prepare students for further education in both fields, and to give back to the community with Doggie Day Spas and Animal Health Technology days.

Front Row: Laura Joyce, Stephanie Hagen, Adele Heintel. Second Row: Lauren Fout, Julie Harrison, Amanda Wallner. Back Row: Karen Webb, Jon Holden, Michelle Lasher.

[public relations student society of america]



PRSSA is a professional public relations club. Their purpose is to cultivate a favorable and mutually advantageous relationship between students and professional public relations practitioners.

Front Row: Dannie Cain, Sherri Anderson. Back Row: Katie Adkisson, Wesley Deer, Tara Roberts.

[racer girls dance team]

The purpose of the Racer Girls is to entertain crowds at football and basketball games.



Front Row: Amanda Biller, Ashley Reynolds, Mallory Dickerson, Abby Bradshaw, Emily Spiegelhalter. Back Row: Brittany Trapani, Baily Murphy, Lauren Moore, Christy Kelly, Rachel Meyer, Holly Routledge.

[richmond residential college council]

The Richmond Residential College Council is the student government of Richmond College.



Front Row: Christopher White, Stefanie Davenport, Megan Rowlett. Second Row: Toby Pirkle, Christina Grabner, Blake Stricklin. Back Row: Joey Connors, Andrew Boyd, Tyler Liggett, Joshua Pike.

[rotaract]



Front Row: Sarah Thomason, Sherri Anderson, Erica LaMarche, Mikala Trapani. Second Row: Travis VanBussum, Kristen Davis, Jill Ligon, Angela Walther. Back Row: Michael Youngstrom, Justin West, Marshall Healy, Erin Black.

The Rotaract Club is a service organization dedicated to assisting the citizens of Murray, the United States and the world. Through the Red Cross, Operation Christmas Child Shoebox, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF and service to other organizations, the members of Rotaract strive to place the needs of others before their own.

[rowing club]



Front Row: Elizabeth Davis, Caitlin Dunnagan, Josia Garvey, Scott Pullen. Second Row: Kyle Shupe, Aaron Butler, William Pregliasco, Peter Reimnitz, Phil Eshleman. Back Row: Jake Warren, Michael Cary, Stelios Hadjiloizou, Andrew Cozzens, James Donahoe, Alex Klausing.

Discipline and drive are the common denominators for the men's crew team. The team's training regimen helps each athlete reach the best physical conditioning possible. Sprinting from start to finish, rowing demands the speed of a 100-yard dash and the endurance of the mile. In the course of a 2,000 meter race, an eight-oared shell joins rowers and a coxswain in a strenuous ballet of precise movement, propelling the boat across the water. The coxswain, while primarily navigating the boat, also encourages the rowers, underscoring the months of training so crucial for success. Beyond its physical challenges, the rowing club stresses teamwork. With its physical demands, high expectations for academic success and team camaraderie, the crew team offers an experience like no other.

[sigma alpha iota]

Sigma Alpha Iota is an international music fraternity for women, with a membership including students, teachers, composers and performers of high merit, as well as many women who simply love music. SAI hosts the long-standing annual tradition of All Campus Sing on the steps of Lovett Auditorium in the spring. They also jointly produce the annual Campus Lights musical tradition with Phi Mu Alpha. They support music education throughout the community and nation with various philanthropies and projects, including instrument drives, Athena Festival, sponsoring guest musicians and workshops for children and schools. They also sing at community and campus events. Although their organization is professional, not social, they pride themselves on having a fun and hardworking sisterhood.



Front Row: Amber Langston, Jessica Moore, Cassie Lewis, Sarah Caudill, Devan Caton, Stephanie Jones, Nicole Casteel. Second Row: Aaren B. Cadd, Amanda McGuire, Bekah Carmichael, Katie Peregrine, Jesse Timmer, Christen Jones. Back Row: Samantha Walters, Pamela L. Wright, Katie Herrenbruck, Theresa Luebbbers, Felicia Gammon, Caity Clancy, Ashley Rawlings.

[student ambassadors]

The object of Student Ambassadors is to foster and promote the development of Murray State by assisting in student recruitment, alumni relations, community relations and other public relations functions.



Front Row: Randa Gilanne Palma Gozum, Sarah Farmer, Ashley Boyd, Keshia Ingram, Ashley Armstrong, Yuki Ono. Second Row: Heather Stroupe, Maggie Shupe, Kacie Payne, Alison Cooper, Carrie McAliley, Megan Rowlett, Ashlie Benford, Helen Lee, Wes Edwards. Third Row: Christian Cruce, Matt Hunt, Kelly Rottman, Rachel Barksdale, Tracy Nearhoof, Kimberly Bridges, Abby Miller, Dallas Jo Young, Amanda Carter. Back Row: Phillip DuVentre, Ron Beaton, Jeff Crisp, Stephen Parker, Derek Nance, Jason Hinson, Hanson Hostetler, Glenn Alex Chalker.

[student athlete advisory council]



The purpose of the Student Athlete Advisory Council is to cultivate productive relationships and communication between the Athletic Department and student athletes. Additionally, SAAC provides opportunities for all students to take an active role in campus and community projects and activities. Activities include canned food and toy drives, National Sportsmanship Day, Eating Disorder Awareness Week and Relay for Life.

Front Row: Jane DeWitt, Ashley Meagher, Casady Pruitt. Second Row: Seth Hudson, Alicia Tempel, Rachael Lask, Kelly Anderson, Tracy Bogard, Brandy Boucherie, Bethany Yates. Back Row: Hunter Gerlach, Tyler Owen, Dwayne Paul, Rob Kennedy, Chris Horton, Zach Knight.

[student senate]



The Student Government Association senate is the elected governing body for the students at Murray State.

Front Row: Allan Hendricks, Eric King, Scott Ellison, Phillip DuVentre, Jeanie Morgan. Second Row: Megan Whitt, Rebbie Edmonds, Randa Gozum, Sarah Farmer, Kayla Riley, Ashley Wild, Cami Knapp, Whitney Overstreet, Kristin Barnett. Third Row: Molly Williams, Jennifer Mielke, Christina George, Sanda Thomason, Blaire Bushart, Noel Wousley, Jonathan Jones, Tiffany Hedrick, Cristin Laird. Fourth Row: David Hardin, Mindy Hoffmann, Alana Seaborg, Whitney Shirley, Justin Arnold, Kara Mantooth, Elizabeth Donner, Dallas Jo Young, Asia Burnett, Ali Christ. Back Row: Stephen Boh, Ryan Walls, Jason Hinson, Derek Nance, Justin Crice, Jonathan Burdon, Robert Castleberry, Wes Hunt, Joel Perkins, Reed Clapp, Jesse Little.

[student tesol organization]

The Student TESOL Organization serves as a liaison between Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages graduate students and faculty, and works to promote intercultural unity on campus.



Front Row: Min Jung Jang, Ju Mei Tseng. Back Row: Tomoko Imura, Ashley Ellison.

[wesley foundation]

The Wesley Foundation is a United Methodist campus ministry. They are dedicated to serving God and reaching students through worship, fellowship, study and missions.



Front Row: Amanda Crider, Neal Buchanan, Jess Miller, Emily Burch, Tommy Dillard, Kasey Tobin, Magdalene Beam, Kim Myatt. Second Row: John Albert, Brian Jennings, Lindsey Patterson, Heather Ashworth, Ashley Adams, Courtney Snapp, Chase Peck, Jonathan Lemmon. Back Row: Jeff Viniard, Derek Nance, Micah Sugg, Thomas Collie, Clayton Vertrees, Ron Beaton, James Wolfgang.

[white residential college council]



White Residential College Council functions as a governing student body of White College's members. Not only do they make major decisions affecting the members of their college, they also organize social, educational and informational programs. Such programs include cookouts, Chinese New Year, study skills, dorm room contests, sports tournaments and fundraising events. Organizing intramural sports teams was also an important function of the council.

Front Row: Brittany Fentress, Jonathan Jones, Kelly Harris. Second Row: Lacy Cheek, Erin Atha, Katie Columbia, Kyle Hoffman, Amanda Howard, Stacey Woods. Third Row: Linda Grira, Jane DeWitt, Bonnie Higginson, Amanda Grace, Elizabeth Donner, Elizabeth Thornhill, Diane Nunn. Back Row: Kimberly Conklin, David Columbia, Matt Buchanan, Andrew Coleman, Joshua Francisco, Patrick Wallace, Amanda Jenkins, Glenn Alex Chalker.



Front Row: Sarah Baker, Jessica Smith, Sarah Hovekamp, Samantha Gebert, Kaia Fox, Caitlin Dunnagan. Second Row: Kelsey Quade, Rachel Ruehling, Marci Little, Sarah Peddie, Allie Bryant, Stephanie Harrington, Amanda Smith. Back Row: Paul Holladay, Jonathan Hamlet, Leah Wood, Elaine Kight, Sara Bynum.

[staff positions]

Jessica Smith
Editor in Chief

Samantha Gebert
Lead Designer

Ben Amberg (2nd Semester)
Adam Farmer (1st Semester)
James Johnson (2nd Semester)
Sports Editors

Todd Broker (1st Semester)
Victoria Camfield (2nd Semester)
Managing Editors

Cindy Blalock (1st Semester)
Sarah Hovekamp
Designers

Sarah Baker
Stephanie Harrington
Staff Writers

Charissa Acree
Copy Editor

Cindy Blalock (1st Semester)
Rachel Ruehling (2nd Semester)
Campus Life Editors

Allie Bryan
Jonathan Hamlet
Marci Little
Sarah Peddie
Leah Wood
Office Staff

Adam Farmer (1st Semester)
Amanda Bates (2nd Semester)
Advertising Sales

Caitlin Wardlow
Greek Life Editor

Caitlin Dunnagan
Lead Photographer

Amanda Smith
Residential College Life Editor

Sara Bynum
Kaia Fox
Paul Holladay
Elaine Kight
Staff Photographers

Kelsey Quade
Academics Editor

Elaine Kight
Organizations Editor

It strikes me as odd how difficult it is, after putting together an entire yearbook, to write a letter from the editor. It's not that I haven't enjoyed the past year, because I certainly have. I just find it hard to put everything I feel about the 2007 Shield and its staff into words.

So, I'll start by telling you why I decided to be editor of the book.

For me, it all started my freshman year when I sought a way to become more involved. Luckily, I ended up joining the Shield staff as a designer in the spring semester. It was not my first time working on a yearbook; I served as one of three editors of my middle school and high school yearbooks. During that time I developed a true appreciation for this type of publication. The goal of any yearbook's staff is a simple one. Preserve moments. Augment memories. People grab their yearbooks to look up memories as the names of past friends, teachers or places drift into their consciousness.

They reminisce about friends, remember inside jokes they had and love to see the fashion and hairstyles of yesteryear. A yearbook is just a truly special thing, which is why I am glad I chose to continue working on a yearbook staff while in college.

After serving as a designer, I was asked if I wanted to hold the position of editor in chief for this past year, my sophomore year. I (almost too) eagerly agreed and began what

now seems like the never-ending planning process for this year's book.

We decided on this year's theme "perspectives" as a way to take the book to a new level, or rather return it to a prior level. In 2000, 2001 and 2002, the Shield brought several prestigious awards for writing, photography and design to Murray State. Thus, one of our staff's main goals at the beginning of the year was to return the book to that level of success, and to leave the book in a strong position to sustain that success.

With that goal in mind we decided to try some new things. We wanted to interview a wider range of personalities through our profile pages and to attempt more "behind-the-scenes" stories; weeding out the more cut-and-dry, cookie cutter stories usually found in yearbooks. We wanted to make the focus of our photography quality and not quantity to really show off the skill of our photographers. In order to accomplish this, we had to push

our writers to fill with quality writing space what was normally reserved for photographs. With all of these changes, what we really wanted to do was take a fresh approach to the design of the Shield, while bringing in some new perspectives.

One thing that most people don't realize about a college yearbook is that it is essentially a business office. To maintain success, it needs to support itself as much as it can. To that end, one of the aspects of this year's book of which I am most proud is ad sales. I am reminded of this every time I see the hand-drawn "sales goal" thermometer in our office colored almost to the top – well above our original goal. Our ad sales staff went above and beyond what many, if not all, of the Shield's previous advertisement staffs had done and helped cover more of the expenses of this year's book.

We also acquired Adobe InDesign CS2 for our office, as well as a newer version of Adobe Photoshop. Trust me, the day we finally had the software on our computers was a very, very happy day for all on staff, and the improvements in book quality are easily recognizable.

I have never been involved with a group of people who came together and worked toward something as eagerly as this group of people has done. We all became great friends in the process, and



that is something for which I am truly grateful. It also is very satisfying to know that this yearbook has served as a medium through which the talents of our staff can be featured.

I truly hope that each and every one of you can appreciate this publication and every photograph and word it contains. Whether you are browsing it near its publication date or 50 years down the road, I hope this volume of the Shield fulfills its duties as a preserver of memories and as a representation of Murray State University.

Best Wishes,
Jessica Smith
2007 Shield Editor in Chief

[shield]

senior advertisements
business advertisements
index
closing



photograph by leah wood

Taking advantage of a beautiful spring day, one student relaxes in the Quad while others hurry to their next classes. Many students chose to study and relax outdoors during the warmer months on campus.

[advertisements, index & closing]

Mark & Carol Waggoner



Congratulations on your Graduation
Vocational Education and Career Tech Education

Jarrold Heltsley



Congratulations, Jarrold.
Aim high, shoot for the stars!
Catch all of your life's dreams!
We are so proud of you!

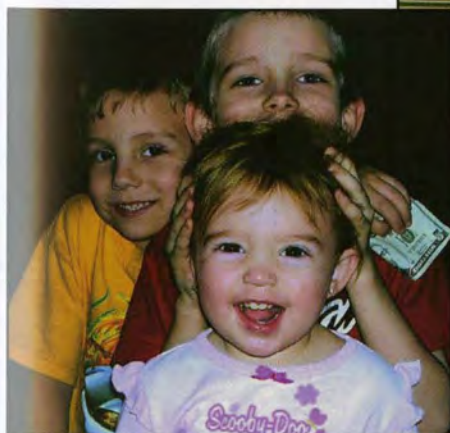
Love always,
Dad, Mom & Jason

Alan Hartley

We're proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Andrew & Daniel

April Vaught

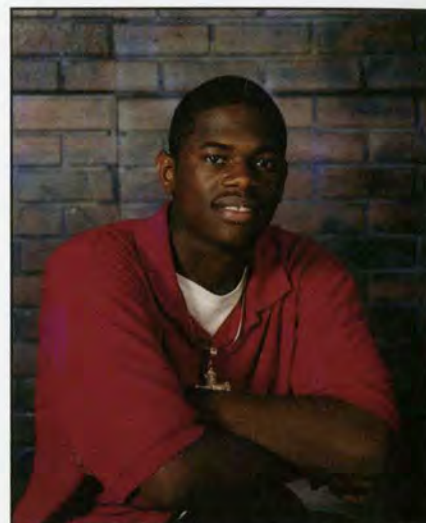
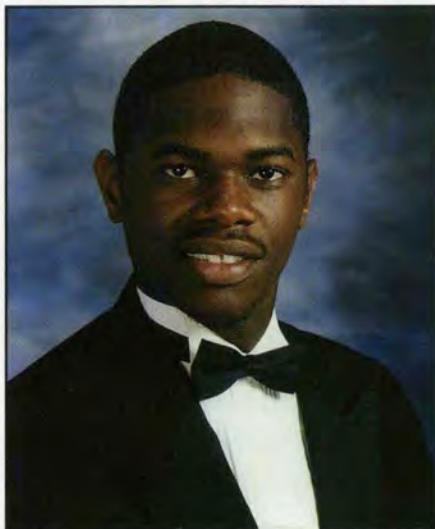


April,
I am so proud to be your mother. You prove every day it can be done. Keep
up the hard work and keep God as your guide and you'll always be on the right
road. Good luck in your future. May you and Matt live happily ever after.

With all my love,
Momma

With Love From All

Wayne E. Simpson



Wayne, we are so very proud of you. All glory be to God. Forever praise and worship Him. He is ALWAYS with you.

"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength,
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint."

ISAIAH 40:31

Love,
Mom, Dad & Pooch

Brian Asher

We are proud of your
accomplishments!

Mom & Dad



Micah Wilson

Congratulations, Micah. We are
so proud of the determination
and hard work you've done to
complete your college
education!

Love,
Family & Friends



Lori Deborah Kelly

Congratulations, Lori. We are
so proud of you. We knew
you could do it.

Love,
Mom & Dad



Scott Cartwright

We are so proud of you.
Congratulations.

Love,
Mom & Dad



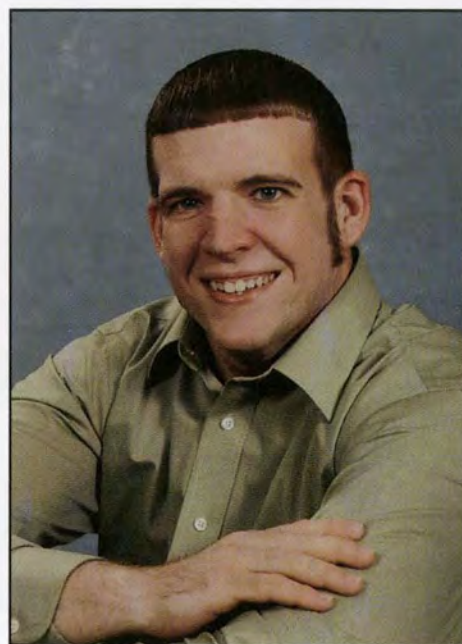
Kelly Fineman

Philip Lynwood Keel, Jr.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We are all so proud of you.

The entire Fineman family



Congratulations, Son!
We are very proud of you.

Love,
Mom & Dad

John Montgomery



JOHN BOY,

Congratulations on your graduation! We are proud of you and your achievements throughout the years. May God always be a part of your life.

Love You Always,
Dad & Mom and Julie

Warren Alan King



Dear Warren,
Your life has been a wonderful journey for us. From the day you were born, we loved you, nurtured you and then hoped for the best. Now you have exceeded our expectations and we are in awe of your success.

Love,
Mom & Dad

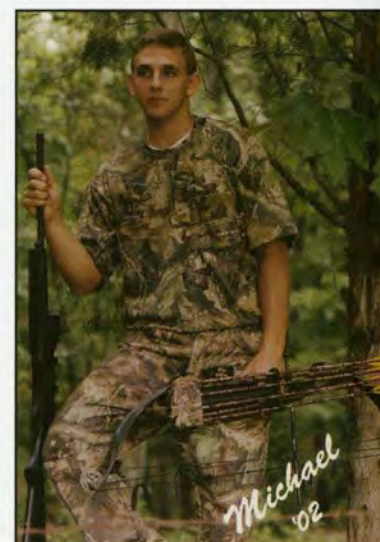
Beth Ann Dunavant



Beth Ann,
Congratulations! It's hard for us to believe our little girl has graduated from college. You have always made us so proud of you over the years. You can count on our love and support as you tackle your next exciting challenge.

We love you,
Mom & Dad

Michael McGregor



We have enjoyed watching you grow from a baby to a young man. You have made us proud of the person you have become. We wish you success in whatever you do.

We love you,
Dad, Mom & Gary
Jonerik, Dee-Dee, Emmy & Dalton

Kyle Patrick Owens

CONGRATULATIONS KYLE!!!

Kyle,

People go through life trying to figure out what they want to do professionally for the rest of their lives. It seems you're one of those rare few who knew. You were focused on what you wanted and you were willing to do what it took to get it. There were sacrifices along the way. But you knew what kind of future you wanted for yourself and future family. Congratulations on achieving your bachelors degree in animal health technology. We are very proud of your accomplishments and are proud to call you our son. Remember to keep Christ in the center of your life.

We love you,
Mama, Daddy, T.J., Amber
Grandma and Papa Crawley
Granny and Paw Paw Owens

Komorie Sotomayor

We are so proud of you. We knew you could do it.
We love you very much.

Mom, Dad, brothers, Ominous, Stacey & Cuni

Brent Bauscher



Congratulations, Brent!
We are proud of you!

Love you!
Mom & Dad

Kortni Reese



Congratulations!
Mom, Dad & Karen

Jaclyn Gail French & Matthew Walden



We are very proud of both of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad & Cameron

Jaclyn Gail French



Congratulations, Jaclyn! We are very proud of you.

Love,
Mom, Dad & Cameron

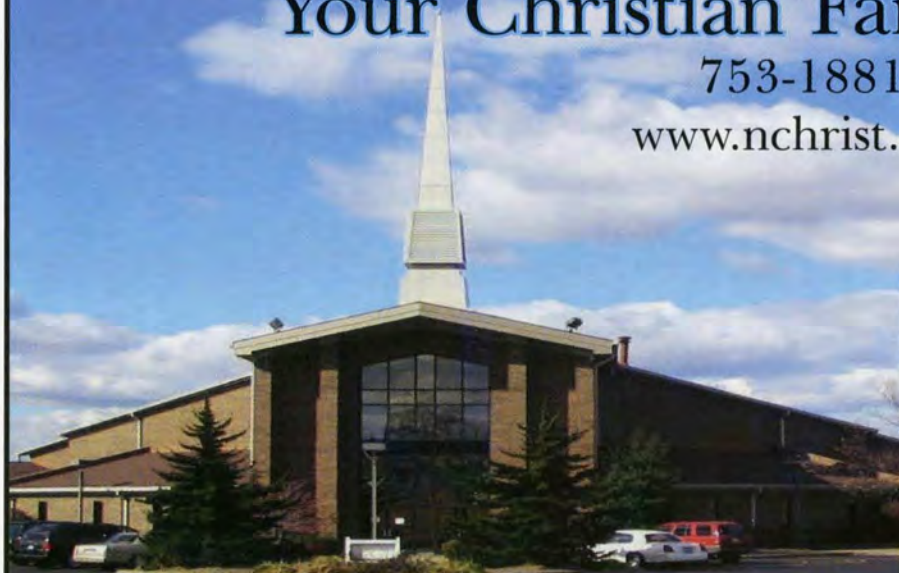
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Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Homeland Security. The College's faculty believe that students learn science, mathematics, engineering, and technology best by

doing real work in these areas. To this end, our students have the opportunity to work side-by-side with faculty trying to solve some of the most interesting questions facing the scientific community today. Over the next few years, the College will be moving into a new science complex, pictured here, and currently under construction. These new facilities will continue to support, and enhance, student learning and research in biological sciences, chemistry, engineering, and physics.



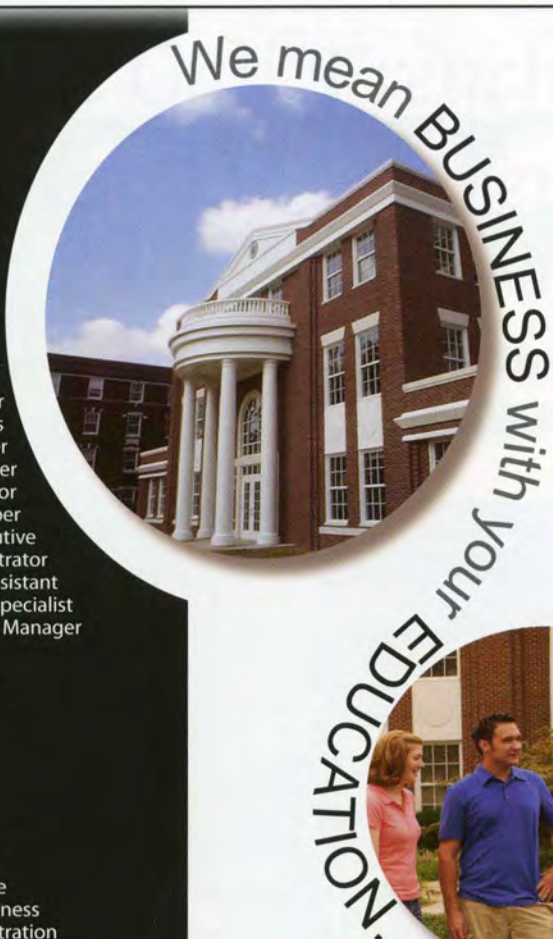


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Financial Analyst
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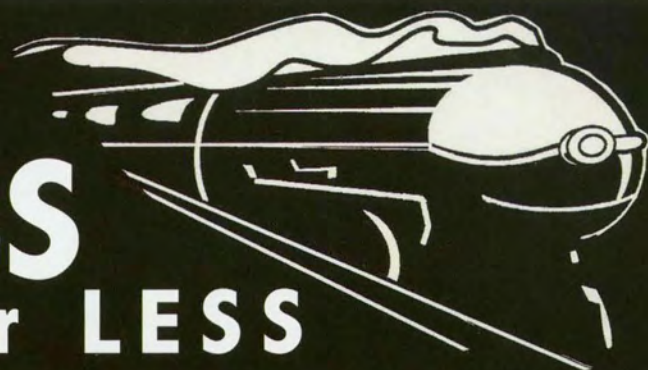


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alpha sigma alpha

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Congratulations

MSU Graduates!



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The School of Agriculture hopes all students had a great year and would like to wish them the utmost success in the future!

Don't forget to check out all of our great clubs and organizations!

- Agricultural Leadership Council
- Alpha Gamma Rho
- Alpha Tau Alpha
- Agriculture Ambassadors
- Agribusiness Club
- Agricultural Engineering Technology Club
- Agronomy Club
- Animal Health Technology/
Pre-Veterinary Medicine Club
- Alpha Zeta
- Block and Bridle
- Collegiate FFA
- Equestrian Team
- Horseman's Club
- Horticulture Club
- Rodeo Club
- Rodeo Team
- Sigma Alpha
- Soil Judging Team

Please let us know if the School of Agriculture faculty, staff or ambassadors can be of service to you. We are located at 103 S. Oakley Applied Science Building. For more information you can reach us at (270) 809-3329, by email at ag@murraystate.edu or log-on www.murraystate.edu/agr.



White College

Congratulations to all the members and leaders of White College for making this another outstanding and rewarding year.



Congratulations
to all
graduating
seniors and
especially our
graduating
Rhinos!

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and Staff of Regents College

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Congratulations Seniors



Richmond College



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residential college council

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Bryce Smith
Social Chair

Kacie Lile
Vice-President

Samantha Piechocinski
Social Chair

Andrea Chapman
Secretary/Treasurer

Arsenio Cash
Athletic Director

Jacob Dunman
Historian

Amanda Von Kannel
Athletic Director

Asia Burnett
SGA Senator

Amanda Tadatada
Honor Society

Ashley Wild
SGA Senator

Jamie Houston
College Editor

Elizabeth Davis
RCA Representative

Scotty Marion
Alumni/Commuter Representative



Congratulations
Graduates!

Elizabeth
College

Hart College

congratulates its graduating seniors and
salutes the following honorees:

December 2006 Graduation Honors:

Jennifer Gilkey
Academic Achievement

Wes Duffy
Outstanding Service

James Owens
Shield Bearer

May 2007 Graduation Honors:

Jason Hinson
Academic Achievement

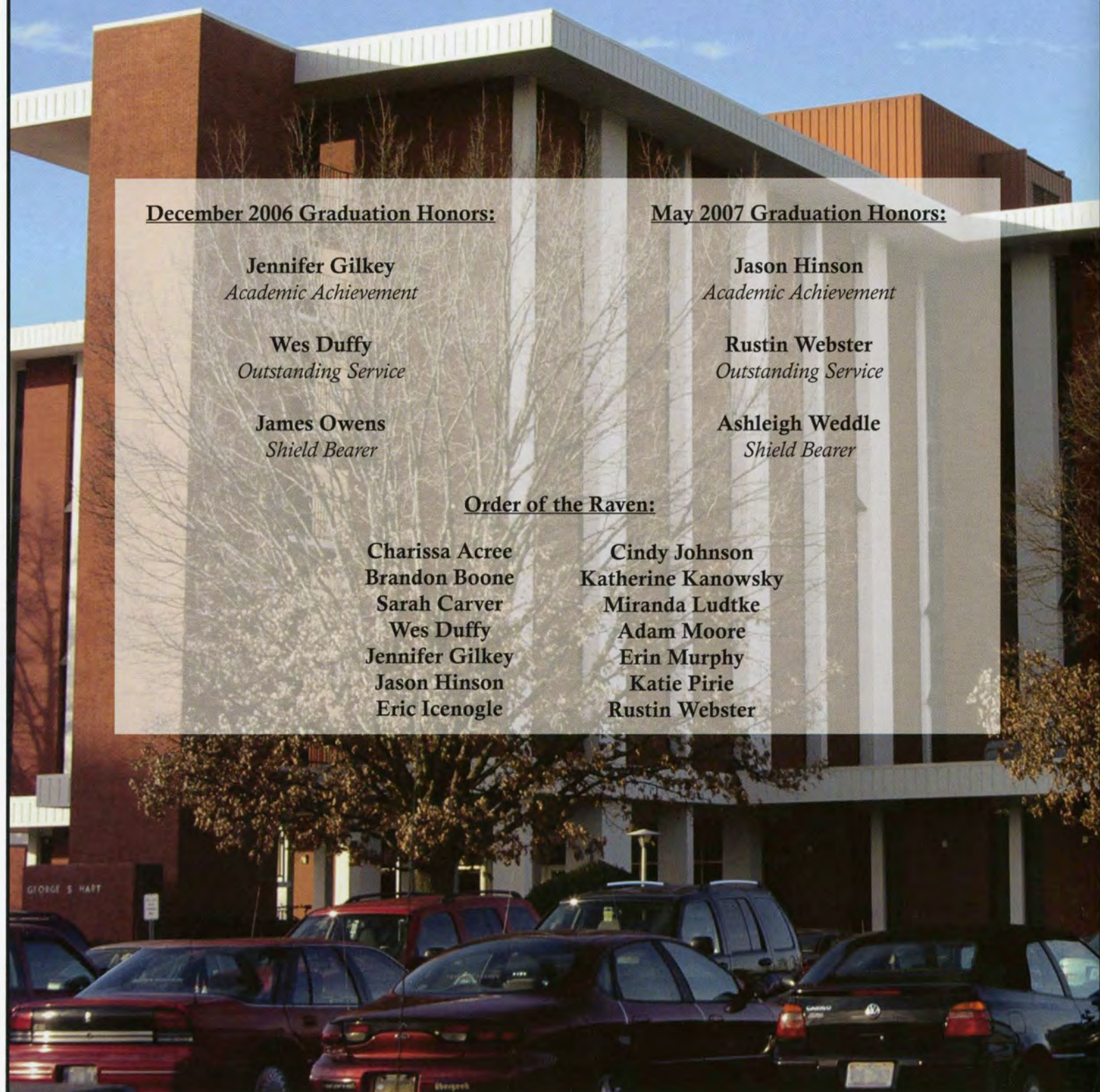
Rustin Webster
Outstanding Service

Ashleigh Weddle
Shield Bearer

Order of the Raven:

Charissa Acree
Brandon Boone
Sarah Carver
Wes Duffy
Jennifer Gilkey
Jason Hinson
Eric Icenogle

Cindy Johnson
Katherine Kanowsky
Miranda Ludtke
Adam Moore
Erin Murphy
Katie Pirie
Rustin Webster



2006-2007 Hester College Award Winners

Outstanding Academic Achievement

*Erin Jones
Rachel Dinwiddie*

Outstanding Service

Rebekah Carmichael

Shield Bearers

*Emily Just
Erica Van Buren*

Most Valuable Athletes

*Travis Bradford
Caitlin Long*

Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

*Chad Wyatt
Ashley Hurt*

Hedgehog Spirit Awards

*Megan Parks
Amanda Bates*

Silver Swan Award

Dylan Drown

Council Member of the Year

Rachel Just

Resident Adviser Service Award

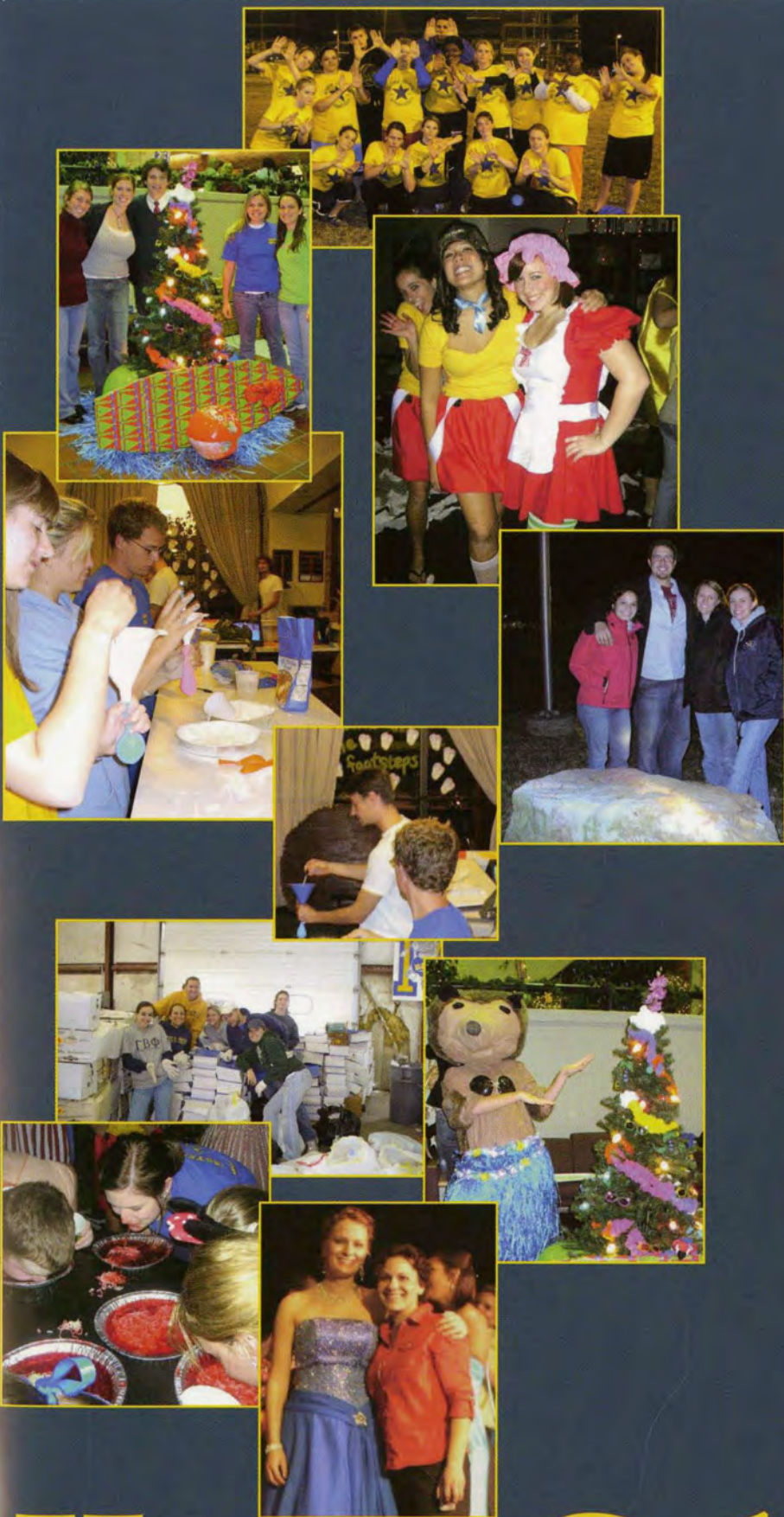
Jessie Pirtle

Faculty Member of the Year

Dr. Peggy Pittman-Munke

Rookie of the Year

Mitchell Ostrout



Hester College

Congratulations Seniors



Congrats, Megan & Heather! Luv, KC

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Zax

thank
you from the
shield staff

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photographs by kaia fox and elaine kight

perspectives



Spring graduation ceremonies were held at the Regional Special Events Center on May 12. The University awarded 2,111 degrees during the 2006-2007 school year.

[shield]

cover

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[colophon]

